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MAY 8, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
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Avesh and batters take LSG to the top; RR beats PBKS
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UNSC jointly backs peace bid in Ukraine

This is its first statement since the Russian invasion

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
UNITED NATIONS

The UN Security Council has expressed "deep concern" over the "maintenance of peace and security" in Ukraine and backed efforts by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to find a peaceful solution, issuing a unanimous statement on the conflict for the first time since the February 24 invasion by Russia.

Friday's statement does not use the terms "war" or "conflict" for Russia's invasion of Ukraine, only recalling "that all member-states have undertaken, under the Charter of the United Nations, the obligation to settle their international disputes by peaceful means".

Mr. Guterres briefed the 15-member Council on Thursday on his recent visit to Russia and Ukraine, where he met with President Vladimir Putin and President Volodymyr Zelensky on April 26 and 28.

"Throughout my travels, I did not mince words. I said the same thing in Moscow as I did in Kyiv... namely that: Russia's invasion of Ukraine is a violation of its territorial integrity and of the Charter of the UN. It must end for the sake of the people of Ukraine, Russia, and the entire world," Mr. Guterres had said. He welcomed the unanimous adoption of the Presidential Statement, saying "today, for the first time, the Security Council spoke with one voice for peace in Ukraine. As I have often said, the world must come together to silence the guns and uphold the values of the UN Charter. I welcome this support and will continue to spare no effort to save lives, reduce suffering and find the path of peace".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

Scarred nation: A residential area in Ukraine's Donetsk region after a missile attack on Saturday. • REUTERS

'Sedition law need not be revisited'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

A 1962 Constitution Bench judgment of the Supreme Court, which upheld the validity of the sedition law, "must be treated as a binding precedent" that has withstood the test of time, the Centre told the Supreme Court in a note on Saturday.

The six-decade-old verdict of a five-judge Bench had allowed Section 124A (sedition) to continue to be part of the Indian Penal Code though it limited its applicability to "activities involving incitement to violence or intention or tendency to create public disorder or cause disturbance of public peace".

The note by the government said the Kedar Nath verdict is "good law". Instances of abuse of Section 124A did not justify reconsideration of a binding judgment upholding the sedition law. "The remedy would lie in preventing such abuse on a case-to-case basis...," the Centre said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

Karnataka to acquire over 50,000 acres for industries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In an effort to allot land in quick time to industrialists, the Government would acquire over 50,000 acres across the State, said Large and Medium Industries Minister Murugesh R. Nirani on Saturday.

Stressing on the importance of land acquisition ahead of the Global Investors Meet (GIM) in Bengaluru, Mr. Nirani said it was imperative on the part of the Government to acquire land for investors. Bengaluru would host GIM from November 2 to 4 this year.

"We will allot land to industrialists in real quick time and provide world-class facilities, including water, power and roads," Mr. Nirani said. Emphasizing on taking industries beyond Bengaluru, Mr. Nirani said industries would be promoted in tier 2 and tier 3 cities.

Replace biased official, say Gyanvapi caretakers

Mosque committee moves court

OMAR RASHID
LUCKNOW

The caretakers of the Gyanvapi mosque in Varanasi on Saturday submitted an application in a local court demanding that the court-appointed advocate commissioner, who was asked to videograph a 'Hindu site' located behind the western wall of the mosque, be replaced as he was acting in a "biased" manner.

Since the mosque committee objected to the inspection of the area inside the barricade of the mosque, the inspection process was halted on the second day, lawyers of the Hindu plaintiffs said.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 9

NEARBY

Lack of street lights on flyover poses a threat

BENGALURU

Motorists and several other commuters using Goraguntepalya flyover (Peenya Flyover) continue to risk their travel with non-functional street lights and waterlogging whenever it rains in the city.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 5

Govt. notifies 3.3 lakh ha of land as deemed forest

MANGALURU

The State Government has notified 3.3 lakh hectares of land as deemed forest. The notification says it includes 2.21 lakh ha of deemed forest land identified by the Reconstituted Expert Committee-1 and 1.08 lakh ha which was not included by panel but meets requirements for calling it as forest.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 6

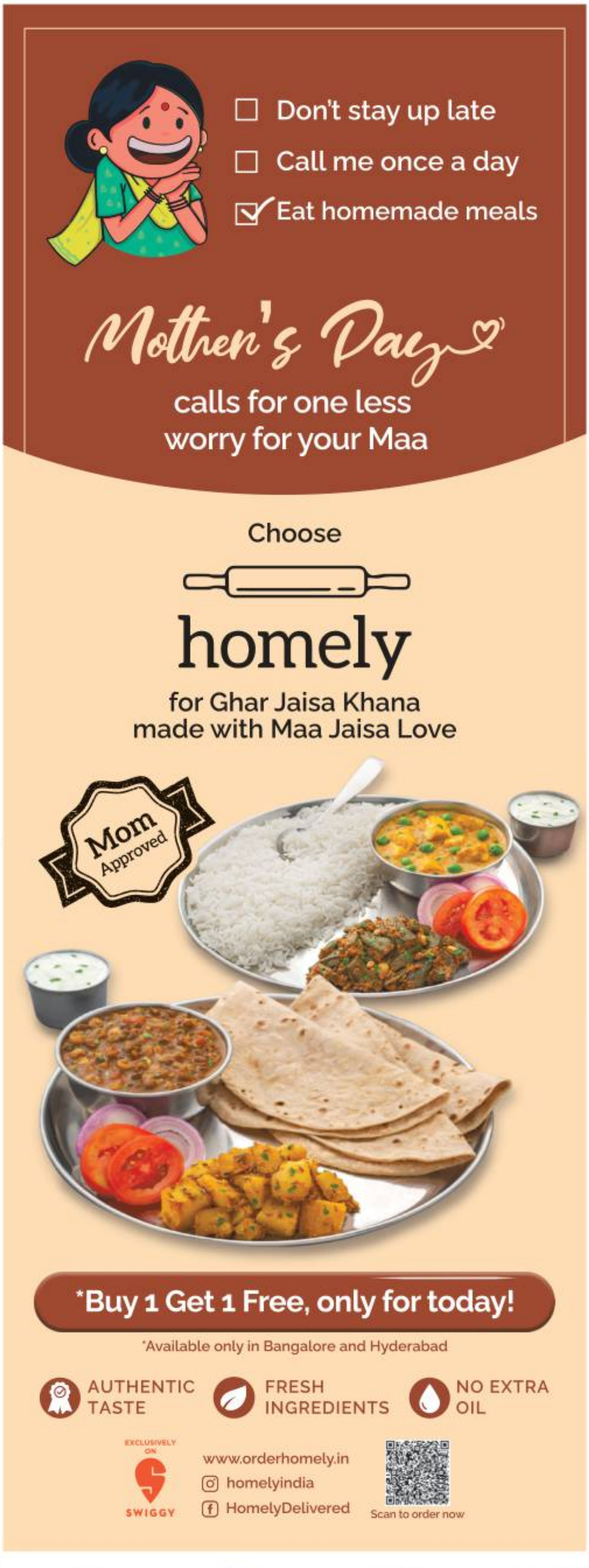
Toyota signs MoU with State, to invest ₹4,800 cr.

BENGALURU

Toyota Group of Companies will invest ₹4,800 crore in Karnataka for the local production of powertrain parts, components of electric vehicles, and also to boost innovation around electrification and greener technologies. The companies signed an MoU with the Government of Karnataka.

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 7

CLASSIFIEDS ▸ PAGES 4 & 5
MAGAZINE ▸ 8 PAGES



Desolate pathway: In Churu, a Rajasthan district known for its ferocious summer, not a soul is in sight on a road leading to the primary school at Thani Dukiya, Binasar. Schools finish classes by noon to avoid the searing heat.

Broiling Churu

By noon, the heat forces people in this Thar gateway indoors

TEXT AND IMAGES BY V.V. KRISHNAN

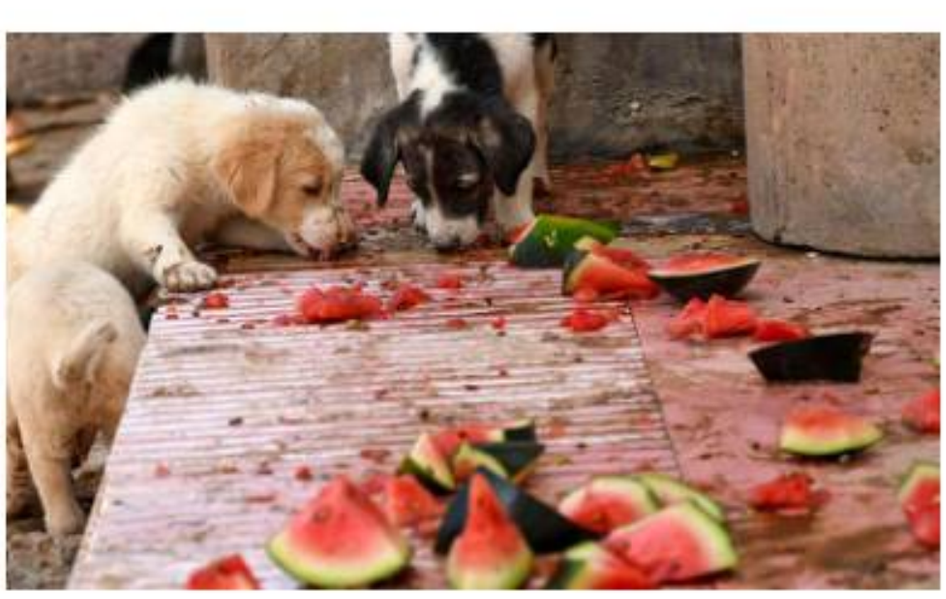
To experience the broiling ferocity of summer, there is no place better than Churu, the gateway to the Thar desert in Rajasthan. The average temperature here in the season is around 45 degrees Celsius peaking to about 50 degrees. In the typical desert climate, the winter temperature drops to zero.

Churu is home to 900 villages, with 248 panchayats, and hosts a population of close to two million. Animal husbandry and embroidery by women are among the primary occupations. In summer, life begins early in the morning. By noon, most places look desolate and deserted, with life in the villages coming to a standstill, except for some cattle left around. The rhythm, however, picks up in the evening as seen in villages such as Beenasar, Gajsar, Somasi, Jhariya, Juhapura, Thalori, Asloo and Ghantel.

There is an acute shortage of potable water. Water supply is managed by the government under the Aapni Yojna, a German-aided rural drinking water project, which has already started providing relief to many villages in the State.

The Tal Chhapar Sanctuary in the Shekhawati region, which has many waterbodies mostly fed by pipelines and tankers, has many herds of blackbuck across the dry grasslands. Villagers here rely on *Kund*, a tank to collect rainwater for the year. Groundwater though is not potable with its high saline content.

A visit to Gopalpura reveals many salt pans which produce over 50 tonnes of salt a year. The camel population seems to be on the decline as younger people give up rearing and opt for other work. There is hardly any agriculture activity in Churu. The district administration has made efforts over the years for afforestation and introduced many schemes to plant saplings.



Slice of cool: Stray pups feed on watermelon outside a mosque at Jhariya village.

Little greenery: A family prunes a tree to feed cattle in the arid terrain of Binasar.

Long haul: Women fetch potable water from a traditional rainwater-fed tank at Bharunsar village.

Vintage facility: The Sethani Ka Johara is a reservoir built during a terrible famine in 1899. It is one of the most successful famine-relief projects by harvesting rainwater.

PSI exam scam casts shadow on most govt. recruitment tests

There are concerns that similar malpractices may have occurred in other exams

Divya Hagaragi, BJP leader and an accused in PSI recruitment exam scam. •FILE PHOTO

K.V. ADITYA BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU

The police sub-inspector (PSI) recruitment scam uncovered recently and the modus operandi used to subvert the system has not only cast a shadow over other police recruitments, but also most other recruitment exams held by the State Government.

There had been allegations of malpractices using similar methods in other recruitment exams, including those held by Karnataka State Public Service Commission. A few accused touts in the PSI recruitment scam had also been accused in the PWD assistant engineer recruitment exam malpractices of 2021, indicating organised groups of touts have been actively rigging recruitment exams. Several coaching centres preparing students for competitive exams have also emerged as fertile grounds for such malpractices and for touts to broker deals, police officials said.

Two ways of cheating

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probing the PSI recruitment scam has uncovered two methods using which the candidates have cheated to score high marks. To avoid subjectivity in evaluation and corruption, most recruitment tests now progressively focus on multiple choice questions that the candidates need to fill in an OMR sheet, with a carbon copy for the candidate. However, that system itself seems to have helped malpractices.

"Since most recruitment exams follow the same pattern, there are concerns that similar malpractices may have occurred in other exams. It was only by chance that the malpractices at the PSI recruitment exam were uncovered," a senior police official said. A failed candidate accessed the carbon copy of a successful candidate and found he had not even answered enough questions to score what the results said, and put it out on social media, leading to allegations of widespread corruption.

The candidates had left OMR sheets unanswered and invigilators later filled them up with correct answers.

"Till 2016, police officials used to be invigilators for these exams. But following allegations that they helped candidates, the department outsourced invigilation to those working at educational institutions that are selected as exam centres. However, most malpractices have occurred at these centres with help by these invigilators," an officer explained.

CID is presently getting all 545 OMR sheets of all selected candidates forensically analysed. "Till date, just over 100 OMR sheets have been analysed, of which FSL has reported 30 of them were tampered with. As many as 24 of these 30 candidates have been arrested and the remaining six are still at large. As and when FSL completes the forensic analysis of the remaining papers, those who are found to have indulged in malpractices may only shoot up further," a senior CID official said.

WIDE ANGLE

Bluetooth device

Yet another mode of malpractice was use of a Bluetooth device. Aspiring PSI candidates were given Bluetooth devices through which some experts who accessed the question paper after the exam began helped candidates with the answers. Multiple recruitment exams by the State Government have seen candidates caught with Bluetooth devices, leading to the government deploying metal detectors to detect these devices. "However, the Bluetooth devices used in the PSI recruitment exams are very sophisticated, small, skin coloured and are entirely made of plastic and are not detected by metal detectors," a senior police official said.

The CID is yet to uncover any evidence of involvement of those at the Police Recruitment Cell, who held the exams, sources said. "The recruitment cell has no role in carrying out these malpractices. Even the selection of exam centres has been completely decentralised and it is the district superintendents of police who choose the centres, not the Cell," explained a senior police official. However, CID sources said that the probe is yet to reach the Cell and they would spare none if they find evidence of malpractice.

Meanwhile, each of the 92 exam centres were assigned with a DySP rank officer to oversee the exams. Till date, CID has uncovered malpractices at two centres in Kalaburagi and 7 centres in Bengaluru, while it suspects malpractices in over 10 other centres. CID will likely serve notices to over 20 DySPs in charge of these centres to join the probe.

Setback for recruitment

The 90,000-plus strong Karnataka State Police, which had been suffering with over 30% vacancies, has taken up an aggressive recruitment drive since 2016, with an aim to have no vacancies by 2023-24.

"The PSI recruitment scam and the cancellation of the selection list, is a big setback for the recruitment drive and will take time to recover from it and resume an aggressive recruitment drive," a senior official lamented.

For a cleaner recruitment process

A slew of reforms is the need of the hour in order to ensure fairness

S.T. RAMESH

For many Indian youth, the post of a Police Sub-Inspector is a coveted one. The scope for manipulation through corruption and political influence is high in the process of recruitment. The officer in charge of recruitment comes under tremendous pressure from current and former legislators, ministers, Chief Minister, and even friends and relatives. Resisting pressure at the risk of one's career is the name of the game.

The processes associated with PSI Recruitment – physical efficiency test (PET), physical standard test (PST), written test and personal interview – involve a large number of support personnel. Even a single mistake can taint the entire process. Ensuring secrecy of question papers, storing them safely and transporting them to various centres have to be handled without giving room for question paper leak.

'Coaching shops'

"Coaching shops" attract many desperate candidates. Huge sums of money are collected with the false promise of sharing the actual question papers in advance. There is no dearth of touts and agents who promise the job to gullible candidates for a price.

More than 15 years back, technology was introduced by Karnataka police in order to make recruitment transparent and scam-free. Amongst others, CCTV coverage was ensured during PST, PET and written exams. Objective type papers with OMR sheets would be scanned, eliminating human intervention and malpractices in evaluation. Impersonators and fraudsters were identified early, criminally prosecuted and potential scams nipped in the bud. However, the scam that is currently under investigation shows that fraudsters have learnt to find loopholes in the system., though technology has only got more sophisticated today.

Police sub-inspector candidates staging a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru. •FILE PHOTO

GUEST COLUMN

What is the way forward? A slew of reforms is the need of the hour in order to ensure a fair process. Government should post an officer of unimpeachable integrity and competence to head recruitment. He should be provided adequate human resource, technological support and budget with a strong team to handle litigation. The Government and the head of the department should fully support him in resisting influence and political pressure, Utopian though it may seem in the present environment.

Political will

It is time that the Government exhibited the political will to come up with a tough and comprehensive piece of legislation criminalising malpractices and scams in recruitment. This legislation should define various acts of omission and commission associated with it . Acts such as copying, leaking question papers and rumour mongering should be criminalized.

The law should have penal provisions to deal with touts, persons who run "tutorial shops", erring invigilators and Government servants. It should include provisions for debarring delinquent candidates from applying for Government service for a certain number of years or even permanently. A database of all such crimes and attempts to commit crimes should be maintained.

The recruitment chief should also institutionalise best practices such as holding workshops and training programmes for in-house personnel involved in the Recruitment process as also the invigilators drawn from other departments. Examination centres should be selected after due diligence and habitual offenders kept under surveillance. Once these reforms are implemented, they should be sustained with further improvements year after year. It will be tragic if slackness and complacency set in after the present scandal fades from public memory. Governance consists of an effective system led by a competent leader. Even if one of them fails, the result can be disastrous.

(The author is a former Director-General & Inspector General of Police, Karnataka)

Salt lick: A herd of blackbuck at the salt pans of Gopalpura.

Diurnal variations: Migrant labourers stay covered in blankets while sleeping in the open at a settlement at daybreak. Despite the heat during the day, night temperatures drop in the dessert.

Caravan moves on: Pot sellers with a camel cart take an afternoon break at Asal Khari village.

Summer lassitude: A shopkeeper takes a nap in the afternoon, with hot temperatures and not much activity, on the way to Taranagar.

For a few droplets: A swarm of bees seen over a pipe of cold drinking water at a petrol pump in Taranagar.

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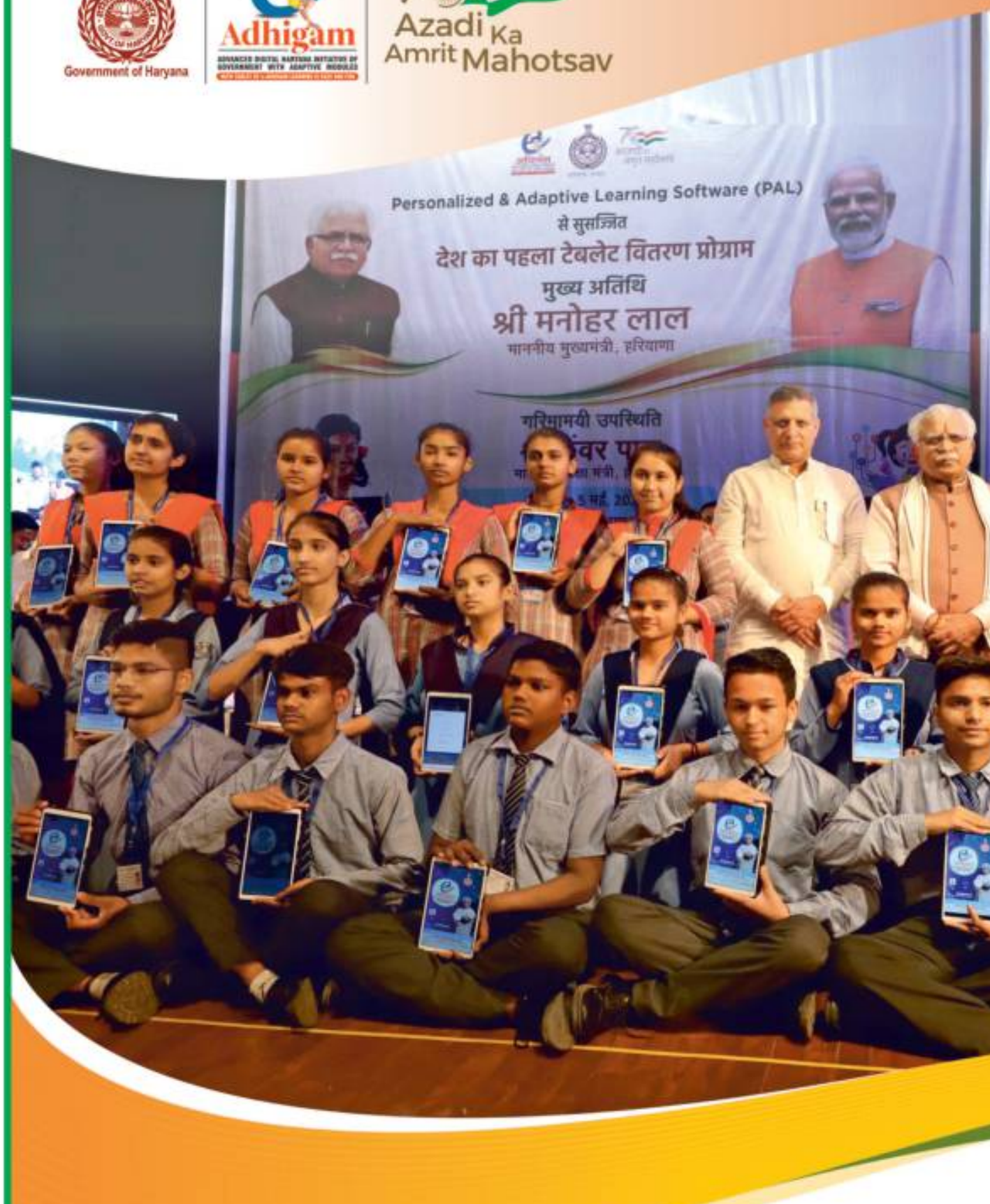

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LOOKING HINDU Suitable non-veg. groom (Bengali/Hindi speaking) for WB-S.Banik 30+/5ft 3inch, Devgan/ Libra, M.Tech., working as Elec. Eng. at MNC in Chennai. Mob.- 9433218203.

DIVORCEE

PROPOSALS INVITED from Parents of Mukkulathor girl, 30years. Tall, Fair, Post Graduate in Medicine. Completed three parts of Royal College Examinations. Divorced within short span due to cultural incompatibility. No issue. Alliance invited from mukkulathor mudaliar / pillai grooms. Preferably Doctors or professionals doing Bussiness from decent cultured. Elite Family. Contact : 73058 36940.

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR Girl MD 36/165 Punarpoosam/ Mithunam, seeks groom from same community, preferred Engineer/ SW Engineer/ Doctors 36-40yrs (essential) Chennai/ Chengalpattu/ Vellore regions only. Ct: 8148323860

VANNIYAR DIVORCEE No issues, 30yrs, PGDM, Working, Fair, Upper Middle, Settled in Chennai. Seeks Educated, Progressive & Chennai Groom, Age 31-38. Caste No bar. Ct: 6369409595

DOCTOR

ELITE ROYAL Mudaliyar 24/ M.B.B. S.,M.D., Own Hospitals (200 Beds) Fair GirlSeeks Groom Chennai 9087604894

DOCTOR GIRL MD Anesthesiology 32/ 165 from affluent elite family of doctors working in top hospital, Chennai. Fair beautiful good mannered & cultured. Father doctor Kerala Nair .Mother Tamil CSI. Doctor grooms with MD MS MCh DM from good family background from Kerala & TN preferable. Ct: 9840050381/ 9840985383

KANNADA

SUITABLE GROOM for 31/160 Tulu girl, Software Engineer @ Blore, Subcaste : Shettigar. Preferred 31-36 age, minimum degree qualification, working @ Blore/ Mlore. Caste no bar gshettigar.2022@gmail.com

MALAYALAM

MALAYALEE VISWAKARMA(G.S) girl 39/ 162, Avittom, Deputy Manager in MNC,Chennai. Seeks educated & Employed Groom(CNB). 9445651626 / 9952995562

ALLIANCES INVITED for Hindu/ Nair girl aged 26 years , Shudhajathakam, working in Germany. Whatsapp: 9901772348/ 9980182559

NAIR/ MENON groom Teetotaller min 167cm Non-IT well settled fair good looking affluent family settled in Chennai/ Metro cities for 27/155 MBA MNC, Chennai Chitra star good looking cultured homely affectionate girl. 9940106790/ unnikuk@yahoo.com

OPULENT NRI Nair parents having business establishments in Kerala and abroad invite proposals for their beautiful daughter, 30, 168, Aswathy, Papa Jathakam, B.Tech, M.Tech, employed in Melbourne, Australia seeks alliance from professionals of similar family backgrounds. Contact No: 9961294125

NAIR GIRL 28/158 BTech Mba TCS Chennai Parents Tvm seeks accomplished nair boys 28 to 32. Ph. 7356879376.

HINDU NAIR 30/160 Shuddha Star Chothi, educated in UAE, BA (Hons) , Working for MNC Bank, Bangalore. Seeks well educated groom with clean habits, CT: 9597336489

NRI

CHRISTIAN GROOM wanted for a fair, beautiful, talented and affectionate Tamil girl, doctor,165 cms, aged 24, settled in the USA IT, Banking or Medical professional, studying/working or in the process of moving to the USA preferred. Language and Caste no bar. Please contact mfatimamary@yahoo.com.

TAMIL

SC AD CSI 37yrs / 165cm Working as Diplomat in World Bank, Washington DC, USA. Seeks suitable Alliance Caste Religion No Bar. Cont: 98844 39700

AFFLUENT, PROTESTANT Christian, Tamil,30yrs, PG, Spinster Bride SeeksAffluent, Bachelor Groom with PG, well Settled from Protestant/ Pentecostal/End Time Message Family. Contact/WAPP Details: 8610527636.

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TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Bride Fair, 23yrs, MBBS, PG. Suitable Bride Groom Wanted. Contact: 7338812126

GOOD-LOOKING CHRISTIAN girl Divorcee, 29 years, M.E., working as a Data Analyst in Chennai seeks a God fearing groom: 8148549085

CHRISTIAN, 36YRS, M.D., Doctor seeks Doctor Groom, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8754823754/ 7550286805

CATHOLIC VELLALAR Girl 29/171 MBBS Pursuing PG Chicago, USA seeks professional from USA. Ct: 9150153743

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar Girl Fair, Good Looking, 03-04-1986 born / 152cm / M.Sc M.Phil, working as Assistant Professor in a Reputed Women's College, Mount Road, Chennai. Both Parents Doctors (Private), Suitable Alliance, Employed / Settled in Chennai / With Clean Habits from Same Community. Contact: 9841182514

TAMIL RC AD 32/160 Wheatish MBBS TN Govt. Chennai, seeks any caste RC Doctor 33 to 36 yrs. Ct: 9840784555 Email: wmm8482@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, ADVOCATE (SOEL), Age 26, SC, Chennai, Pursuing LLM, Parent seeks God fearing Groom. 9790977186

IAS (DEVENDRAR) father from Chennai seeks a suitable Christian faith groom for his daughter (24 - ECE). Not a church goer. IAS/Service preferred. Devendrar/SC preferred. Belief in Jesus essential. 7305701761

TAMIL MUSLIM 25/162 cm MBBS - philippines, V.Fair, good looking seeks well educated and settled groom from respectable family. Ct: - 9841327309

TAMIL MUSLIM 36/163 cm, Working MNC, Fair, good looking seeks well educated groom from respectable family. Ct - 9791063771

ELITE NADAR Christian family invites marriage Proposal from a well to do Christian family for their daughter Post-graduate working in a Foreign Embassy Chennai as a Senior Manager, fair, beautiful. The Bridegroom should be well educated well placed and below age 34. Send bio-date to 97907 87919

VISWAKARMA GIRL Slim Homely accomplished, foreign University PhD in deep learning. Visakam, 28/170 cms, seeks suitable alliance from tall well settled professionally qualified broadminded family in India or abroad.Caste no bar. Phone: 9243129691

HINDU VISWAKARMA, Aswini,Siddha Doctor, 24/162, working pvt seeks Doctor/Engineergroom.Ct:9844944047

HINDU PILLAIMAR, 27, B.Tech, M.S., 153cm, studying Ph.D (Neuroscience) in Australia seeks Groom from Pillaimar (sub caste no bar) with PG or equal qualification, age upto 31 years, settled/prepare to settle in Australia/ Europe from good family background. Ct. 7339179318/ 9791965595.

HINDU, SC Adi Dravida, Female, Age 29, Working in Accenture, Contact 9444991091

IYER VADAMA Brahmin girl, fair, 36, 5ft 2inch, never married, lives and works in Canada, seeking a well-educated and compatible groom (Canadian citizen / PR), aged 34-40, 5'8"-6', veg, non smoker, physically fit and active, Never Married. Contact: +91-98234 77869

HINDU NADAR Girl 28 yrs 167 cm, wheatish, 64 kg, M.E Assistant Professor in Engg college, Upper middle class. Seeks equally qualified boy in job / business. Ct: 96265 15511

MUDALIAR 35/ Puram/ 164/ B.E/ working/ Divorcee/ (with in Month) seeks suitable Profesnly qualified, Caste no bar. 8825875775/ 9986594934. Mail: y.deepika4@gmail.com

HINDU VANNIAR 1978/160 kiruthigai MCA Asst Manager govt bank seeks well placed groom Ct: 9489042676

ALLIANCE INVITED by Parents of Mukkulathor Girl, 26 years, Tall, Fair, Doctor, shortly joining Post Graduate-course preferably from Doctors belonging to Mukkulathor / Mudaliar / Pillai, Decent, cultured and Elite Family. Contact : 97907 22830.

SOZHIYA Vellalar Pillai Fair murugasirisham 33Yrs MBBS (MS) Sevvai, Raghu Kethu dosam seeks Fair Good looking MBBS MD MS(Clinical) groom 32-35Yrs Pillai/Mudaliar/K.V.Gounder in TN, Tamilians only. Ct.6369122723.

Alliance Invited for Tamil/ Muthuraja/ Muthriyar Er Girl 25 Yrs 5ft, Working in MNC, BLR, Belonging to Family Settled in Bangalore, Ct: 09341245725

HINDU AD, Parents Doctors, looking alliance for there daughter/24yrs/ 153Cms/BDS/very fair/slim/affluent, seeks preferably Doctor groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 9360271137, 9486069769.

HINDU TAMIL SC MBBS govt divorcee 30/163 seeks well qualified groom CNB 99421-81799

TAMIL

TAMIL GIRL veg, age 25, M.Sc working. Seeking professional groom below 28yrs, from cultured, non-superstitious family. Contact father tripravi@gmail.com

HINDU SOZHIYA VELLALAR 38 / 160cm MBBS Divorcee (No Child) Seeks MBBS, BDS, PG, Suitable Groom (No Child) Good Family. Contact : 9677300179, 8015333556.

VANIYA CHETTIYAR Aswini Mesam 28/ 163 MBBS, MD final year,Pulmonology.seeks Doctor/IPS/IAS. Sub cast no bar.Ct: sendhu94@gmail.com 9840125521

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SC AD 23/M.B.A., MNC, 1 Lakh PM180cm height Fair seeks Groom decentFamily Ct: 7200067015

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TAMIL Yadhava 25/165,Pooradam girl MS Abroad seeks well Edu groom preferably from Europe. Ct: 95000 33921.

27, FAIR, B.Tech, M. S. in US, working in Chennai, Affluent and reputed family, seeks settled groom CNB. 9489935653

HINDU ADIDRAVIDAR SC 37/1984 MA, Pvt Bank,Ashwini, Good looking. Seek Chennai Groom,Caste nobar 9500017884

33 SC AD Hindu Tamil Chennai, MBA HR working in MNC, Seek suitable groom, ph 9962048707

34 B.COM MBA Raghu in Lagnam Divorcee seeks suitable groom 9094020665

BRAHMIN IYER 28/173 Uthiram LLB Suddha Jadagam Ch seeks well educated Brahmin Groom Ct:Geetham 9884858014

TAMIL, SC AD / Hindu, 29/155, Rohini, Wheatish, upper middle class, M TECH (CSE), B'lore, Project Fellow Own house, Well educated family. WhatsApp: 9620432082

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI Non Veg (Bengaluru), 36/165, Bsc, MBBS, MD. Working as a Senior Resident in Emergency Medicine Multispeciality Hospital @ Mysore seeks MBA(IIM) M.E.M.Tech,MS Preferred, Central Govt Employed or Own Industry or Well Positioned in JOB. Fair and Tall Good Family Background.Ct: 9449037763 / 9600534404

HINDU PILLAI, Asst. Prof, M.E, 30/ 155 Uthiram seeks Er/Dr Groom. Contact: 99523 62830/74182 11136.

ELITE FAMILY, Hindu 30, SC, AD, BE MBA Homely & Divorced, Seeking Groom from Similar background Employed & below 35 yrs. 7303518877

TAMIL YADAV, Vegetarian, 1976 born, Widow, Unconsummated, looks age defying, Software prof. Chennai. Seeks qualified professional having no issues & similar age group, caste no bar. Contact: 8939042966.

AGE 34, Female. Good Looking, B.tech, TCS, widow needs Groom Caste no bar, Contact: 98846 95374

KARKATHA PILLAI, 24/162, BDS, Good looking Bride seeks Groom with MDS qualification from Pillai/ Mudaliar community. Sub caste no bar. Please Contact: 76959 54933

HINDU NADAR ME , Age 27/170 cm, HCL Income : 6-7 Lpa seeks in same caste, Employed in Govt or Private with clean habits , good salary and settled . Contact : 9003234049

B.TECH IIT CS Dual, Girl 24/178cm Pillai, MNC BLR premium salary, seeks compatible groom Veg community/India based 9940019503

TAMIL BRAHMIN, 1998 born/ 168cm, Rohini, Koushika Gothram, B.E., Fair MNC, Mother: Srivaishnava, Father: Vadama seeks suitable Tamil Brahmin Groom. Email : rushasri68@gmail.com

PILLAI/ MUDALIAR: 32 / Good Looking, MBBS, MD Final Yr, Well Settled Family, Seeks Groom aged 32-35, Engineer/ Business /Doctor - 9345855735

HINDU NADAR 24 MBBS 165 Rich Educate family seeks DR, IAS, IPS, Rich family 9003074392 / 9884188849

SC AD 25/M.Pharmacy / Govt.Job (Drugs Inspector) 55,000p.m. Seeks Govt. or Pvt.Bridegrooms. Ph:7397674481

Hindu, Vellalar, Pillai, 34/167cms, Mirugaserisham, BE.MS.US. Seeks bridegroom from US, Pillai / other subsect. Ct: 98424 53050 / 96774 11643

HINDU NADAR 23 BE, MS 164 V.Fair Own industrial Family Seeks industrial Family Abroad and India. 9003074392

TAMIL

TAMIL IYER, Vadama, 26/Rohini/KanvaGothram, Working in IT MNC Seeks Well Settled Groom, with clean habits. Sub Sect no bar. Ct: thyshri@gmail.com / 9444852337

MUDALIAR (CASTE no bar), 42/155, PhD (Pharma), employed in MNC seeks qualified employed groom, India/Abroad, Contact: 9444675720, 9282129789, rajasekaransguru@gmail.com

S'BLE MATCH for May 93 born Tamil Iyer vadama B'lure based CA inter passed girl Koushika Gothram from well qualified affluent non Koushika Tamil vadama Iyers family only. Horoscope matching must. 9845058602.

IYER 32 / 170 Cm fair BE TCS USA Koundanyam Ayilyam Seeks Iyer / Iyengar boys below 35 yrs equally qualified USA H1B. R. Govindarajan Ct: 98412 39737.

GROOM WANTED

MUDHALIAR 29 /164 cms / M.B.B.S / Rs. 40000/-pm, Kanni-Uthiram (2), Father Doctor / seeks groom preferably Doctor / Engineer/Gazetted Officer /Charted Accountant from Mudhaliar Community.

Contact No: 97890 73407

HINDU SC AD 34yrs, BE. Mesham/ Barani SWE/TCS, 12 Lakhs PA. Seeks Suitable Groom. Contact: 9952147216

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA, Ketai-2 Viruchikam, 27/160cm, MBBS Govt Dr. 80k pm seek prof. groom 9884244151

HINDU SC PR KONGU 37, MBBS DCH Doctor, working in Govt Hospital seeks suitable groom.Ct: 94436-80973

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

BRAHMIN, 35, 193 cms, Businessman, Masters in Engineering from a premier Institute. Lives in Chennai. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an affable match. Contact: 6366448345

BRAHMIN, 35, 178 cms, Project Manager, MBA in Operations Management. Lives in the USA. Father is retired. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448345

NAICKER/CASTE NO BAR, 40, 180 cms,VP, ME. Lives in Bangalore. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable match from a similar community. Contact: 6366448344

GOUNDER/CASTE NO BAR, 28, 183 cms, Operations Manager, BE. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable match. Contact: 6366448343

CHRISTIAN, 28, 180 cms, Doctor, MD/MS. Lives in Coimbatore. Parents are Entrepreneurs. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for a compatible well educated match from the same community. Contact: 6366448343

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

BRAHMIN, 33, 170 cms, Lawyer, Masters of Law. Lives in the USA. Father is a working Professional. Family is affluent with a good net worth. Looking for an amiable well educated match in the USA. Contact: 6366448345

VELLALAR, 28, 157 cms, Doctor, MS. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Doctor. Family is affluent. Looking for a compatible doctor match from a similar community in India. Contact: 6366448343

CHETTIAR, 27, 163 cms, Doctor, MD. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Consultant. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a suitable well educated match in Chennai. Contact: 6366448344

INTERCASTE, 32, 155 cms, Management Professional, BA. Lives in Singapore. Father is a working Professional. Family is financially well off with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded match Abroad. Contact: 6366448345

KAMMA/CASTE NO BAR, 29, 163 cms, Surgeon, MVSc in Surgery and Radiology. Lives in Chennai. Father is an affluent Businessman with a good net worth. Looking for a like minded well educated match preferably from a business family in any metro city. Contact: 6366448343

Call for Free Consultation ✆ 99629 76000

TAMIL

USA GROOM WANTED

USA, INTEL EMPLOYED, Vanniyakula Kshatriya, Fair 26/ Anusham, MS from Texas, BE, ECE from CEG, AU. Father Industrialist, Chennai. Looking for USA working Groom for their only daughter.
Mail: mahaa.dorai@gmail.com
Whatsapp: 98840 71390

TELUGU

GAVARA 33/156, B.E,SWE,1L/P.M, Poorattathi, Kumbam, seeks suitable T.N Groom working in CHE/BLR, Good Family, any Naidu OK. Ct:9445683332

NAIDU ISSUELESS Divorcee 45/151 ACS MBAEmplyd TN.PSU, looking for Bridegroomin Chennai.CNB : 9445366062

NAIDU : 28,V.Fair & Beautiful, MBA, Export & Import Business, Chennai, Elite Family - Seeks Groom Business / Job - 8939012419

RICH (KAMMA Naidu) 26/M.Sc., ownEngg Colleges, Textile Mills(Coimbatore) Fair seeks Groom7200067015

KAMMA NAIDU, 27/Ht 165cm/MBA,UK, Well Settled Business Family in Chennai. Seeks Groom fm-kamma naidu upper Middle Class Family. Ct:80968 66465

NAIDU,25/162, FAIR, Beautiful, B.Tech, SWE, MNC, Bengaluru, 8Lac PA, Affluent, CNB. 7299576644,7092601552

URDU

SMU SEEKS Alliance for girl M.Tech 24/172 wheatish work-Pharma MFG Co.,Chennai.9092461531/9841021747

SMU GIRL 28/167 Doctor MD 2nd year Seeks Suitable Doctor groom from good family. Ct: 9585547701

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

FAIR BENGALI Brahmin unmarried 30/5'8" BE 5L pa working Pvt (export) live in Tirupur (TN) Caste no bar. CT: 72594-93459, 93805-91922.

COSMOPOLITAN

TELUGU SC Mala groom, 29, 175 cm, handsome, from well to do educated family, working in U.K. seeks educated beautiful bride between the age 23-27. Caste or language no bar.Christians can also apply. No brokers. Send bio, photo to indirapriya1968@gmail.com, 8328645024

BANGALORE BASED affluent Tamil SC/AD family seeks suitable match for their son 29/176 , BE Caste no bar. Contact 9972972907 / 9886290270

NEVER MARRIED Brahmin Doctor Cardiologist 50 yrs 5ft 4inch Hyderabad seeks unmarried Brahmin bride 39-45 yrs 7013810359.

BRAHMIN BOY Vasishta gotra 31/5ft 9inch sales manager in software co in hyderabad seeks alliance from veg educated girls age above 25 reply with horoscope to ssuryakant@rediffmail.com

DIVORCEE

RC MUDALIAR 42, MBA, 167cm,Good Looking, Divorcee, well Settled Family in Chennai,Caste No Bar. 9176166231

DOCTOR

Catholic Christian 33/170 Final Year DM, Neonatology. Chennai based Elite Family seeks suitable Bride, Preferably PG Doctor. Phone - 9444949188.

PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

WANTED GOOD Looking Educated Bride for 30 year hearing impaired boy, B.Tech, MNC, Hindu. Ct: 9444075266.

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA 36, Kanni Hastham, Bcom MBA, Manager Chennai Salary 1 Lakh Pm, Suitable Bride Wanted 9381725577

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, Tirunelveli Dist well settled MS willing to live in USA 25yrs seeks bride from community, any professional. 9382266099

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT, aged 50 yrs divorced Christian.Seeks Graduate Post graduate woman aged betwn 40-45 yrs. Contact:8667387588. No brokers

CHRISTIAN GROOM aged 33, qualification B.E., need homely life partner in Pentecostal or CSI with any degree and own house. Please Contact: 9940542177 / 9840451145

ENGINEER, 53, 180 cms, unmarried, Bangalore seeks graduate lady. Mob 8698968952.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 34yrs /178 cms, MBBS with dip in Cardiology Govt. service good looking lives in Nagercoil, Divorcee seeks same caste qualified Bride/ Divorcee above 28yrs. Ct: 90039 83230

59, CLEAN habits, Fair, Well settled. Seeks Suitable Widow/Divorcee. Caste no bar. Ct: 74014 89892.

VANNIYA KULA Kshatriyar Chennai 30/ 178 BE, Intel, Rs. 1Lpm Bangalore, Caste no Bar. Whatsapp 9840308826

TAMIL

AGAMUDAYAR 31/175 Mirugasirisham B.E, EEE, Associate Project Engr, Working in Pvt Co. Seeks Fair, Good Looking, Well Educated, Good Family Same Caste Ct:8778446246/ 6369759991

HINDU NADAR/NAGERCOIL/BE|ECE in CEG|MS|CS in UK|28yrs/5'10"/ Poosam/Good looking/Chennai brought up with native values/Working in London as Network Engineer/ Handsome salary seeks Fair and Good looking MD/MS/MBBS Doctor bride from well educated Hindu Nadar family having origin from the down south Tamilnadu. Ct: 7806997685; pips.ngl@gmail.com

INTER CASTE (Mudaliar+Naidu) 30/180,B.Tech,MBA,Textile Business, Chennai Only son Elite Family-Seeks bride AnyDegree- 9840573419,7358510790

YADAVA TAMIL 31 Years 180cm B.E. M.S (USA) Fair working in Canada, Father Retired GGM from Premier Oil PSU. Seeks Fair, Well educated girl from decent South Indian family, Caste no bar. Contact: 6382180720

KONGU VELLALAR good family background 33/177, B.E, MBA good job in Bangalore seeks educated good family Kongu Vellalar Bride. CT: 94421 06837.

HINDU NADAR/ 29/ 174cm/ BE/MS Income 6,00,000/- USA Seeks Suitable Bride. KA Raman Nadar 9380891999

AGE 37, 10th C.Govt job IAF Deaf and Dumb OwnHouse Seeks Hindu bride Tamil/Telugu. 7299127422, 9841671611

ELITE ROYAL Mudaliyar 30/B.E., OwnEngg. Colleges. B.Ed CollegesPolytechnics ,Industries etc. Rich family Groom.Seeks Rich Bride. 9087604894

TV- MUDALIAR/ Aswini/ 73/ AGM, TCS Chennai/ 1st Marriage only. 9840454440/9453018110 /abaluind@yahoo.com

34, RISHABHA, Rohini, 5'8', Sozhiya Vellalar, caste no bar, suddha jadhagam, 9944232461

KONGU VELLALAR Gounder 35yrs BE. MNC Bangalore, 13 LPA, UnMarried, seeks suitable Educated Bride from same caste UnMarried/ Divorce/ widow (No Issues)- 9886572314

SEIVA PILLAI Qualification B.E. MBA Working At Bangalore Leading MNC Company Monthly Income 1. 5Lakhs, Divorce age 37 Seeks Only 1st Marriage Bride. No Other Caste. Call : 8072215374/ 8946062412

PILLAI GROOM 29/182cm Working in MNC 1L PA with good networth, seeks suitable match. Cont: 97907 31734 or E-mail: elans.estentee@gmail.com

43, TAMIL, VKS, Doctor, Consultant in UK (in govt job) Simham/ Makam. Well settled with British passport and OCI. Seeks VKS, CNB bride. Groom can relocate if reqd. Email -allianz22@outlook.com. Mob: 9840314571

NATTUKKOTTAI CHETTIAR 40 MBA TCS H.R. Rs.15Lakhs PA seeks Bride CNB. Ct: 98846 88588 / 87545 48204.

HINDU SC/AD 29yrs/169cm. Poosam, Kadagam / Wheatish / MBBS / Govt. Doctor only son of Rtd. Cental Govt. officers sks Doctor Bride. 9487142337 94422 25358 whatsapp: 97916 52653.

NADAR, 1980, HC Advocate, Rich only son, seeks Dr, Engg, Employed Bride. CNB. Ct: 94888 88819

BRAHACHARNAM BHARATHWAJA Mesha Rasi Karthigai 27/180 B.E. 10 L PA Seeks 22 to 24 aged Bride Ct:9789966025

TAMIL HINDU Viswakarma, Un married /45 / 167/ MBA/ Concentrix Manager, 1Lak pm, Seeks alliance from fair girl as Bank Executive/ Corporate Job. Caste no bar. Ct: 9360325183.

TALL, FAIR, handsome ,Intelligent, well educated, disciplined and affluent 36 year old hindu Tamil divorcee needs an educated understanding companion who is willing to share his professional responsibility preferably above 30 years of age. Caste no bar including divorcee without any encumbrance. dasdandan321@gmail.com

MUDALIAR: 31, 180cms, B.E, MBA, Software Professional, Pune/Mumbai, six figure monthly salary, seeks bride, good looking, well educated, working, ready to relocate- 9821045683

TAMIL

VADHAKALAI SADHAYAM Srivasyam, 48, B.A. Employed, Unmarried. Seek Brahmin girl/Divorcee with no child Okay. Ctn 9444740544.

HINDU AD (PR) Retd. Chief Logistics I/C of BPCL (Retail) SR invite alliance for their son 29 BE, MBA (Symbiois, Pune) Area Sales Manager, MNC Trichy CTC 10L/pa. Employed Girl preferred. 9444901839/ 9344533281

32/175,BE MBA, Divorced, SC AD, Germany, EU 75000, seeks openminded, willing to work/settle in Germany , CNB/RNB Mob 9445954163

Mudaliar, 30/5'.5, BE(ECE), Anusham, Ex(TCS), Now Self Emplyd. on Short Films, Script, Corporate Videos Chennai/B'lore. Contact: 9986546042.

SAIVA PILLAI, MBA(Finance), 27/ 165cms, Working in MNC, with good networth seeks suitable match. Contact : 9500072379.

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIYA- Doctor M.D. D.M., slim fair good looking 41/ 175 own hospital 7 lac \ pm well settled clean habits innocent divorce seeks bride unmarried /divorce fair and slim doctor or any degree from good family below 38- no expectation. Contact 6382218317

CASTE NO bar 1980 Bank Manager, Star: Bharani/ Mesham, Chennai-59, Seeks Bride. Ct. 9566209636/ 22394678

MUDALIYAR, 36, 173cm, Moolam, Ortho Doctor seeks good looking educated affluent bride. Ct: 90947 77999.

CASTE NO Bar, 1st Marriage, 1978/ 170 DCE well settled Midunam, Business seeks bride. Ct: 9087665951

HINDU 50YEARS, 163Cm, Own Business, UK Permanent Citizen, Divorce, Seeks Fair, Good Looking Educated Bride with Good Family Background, Cast No Bar. Contact: 9940057666

MUDALIAR 29, BE, MBA, 179cm,24Lacs PA, well Settled Family Seeks Suitable Bride CNB 8778514465/ 7200866346

NAIDU ANUSHAM No Dosham, 32/5'10, BE, MS (USA), Project Manager in Reputed Co. in Chennai, only son, clean habits, well settled,. Seeks Educated girl from upper middle family, CasteNoBar. 9841152054, 9840961569

RICH MUDALIYAR 28/M.B.B.S., ownHospital, own Kalyana Mandapam,Cinema Theatre, Lodges etc., seekingRich bride 7305491610

6'2 Handsome Mudaliar Boy born in Nov 91 Wkg Top MNC in Hyderabad Salary 50-55 Lacs seeks Doctor/Engineer 5 4' Contact: 7032713976.

BRAHMIN,40, ASSOCIATE Project Manager HCL Technologies Madurai, seeks any brahmin girl, 9487851429

WANTED BRIDE Employed or Unemployed for Iyer, Haritham, Brahacharanam, 59 Yrs, 1963 Boy from Brahmin Community. Reply krishn44@rediffmail.com

IYER 34/178 BE MS(USA) NewYork Visa-I140. Seek Iyer/Iyengar Girl IT Prfd India/USA. 9445813633/ 8248086063

MOOLAM, 47, DCE, Consultant Engineer, 50K/-pm. Seeks bride Sivacharlar, any brahmin ok. Ct: 82832 01223

IYER, VADAMAL, GARGA, Mrigasheersham, DOB: 29.06.1992, 178 cm, Fair,Working in L&T Infotech as a Specialist, 16 Lakhs/Annum, in Chennai. Only son of aleading medical practitioner. Affluent family. Expectation: SUBSECT NO BAR. Looking fora graduate Iyer girl. Employment not a must. Contact: 9442438778

HARITHAM, REVATHI 1986/175cms B.tech(IT), PG Diploma in digital effects, lecturer Cochin. Any Brahmin, divorcee with or without child, educated employed. atulya1965@gmail.com

MUSLIM BOY 28/178cm BE(ECE) MS(USA) Proj Mngr MNC Chennai, 21LPM, well to do family 9445556810

SEEKING BRAHMIN Bride willing to be Homemaker for our Son, MS (CS) USA, 27yrs/176 cms, Brahmin, Koundinyam, Vegetarian, No Smoking, No Drinking. Rich or Poor Family does not matter.Ct: Whatsapp: +1 732 372 8410

TAMIL

IYER SANKRITHI Bharani 49/175 very fair Handsome MBA, Phd., widower with 7yrs son,seeks a Graduate/PG homemaker Bride.Divorcee/Widow excuse. Subsect of Iyer/Iyengar No Bar. 9840323947/chandrag2000@yahoo.com

BRIDE WANTED

My son, Hindu Nadar 29/5'8 Fair, M.Tech. No Drinking & Smoking. Software Engineer working in MNC Canada-Toronto 60L/P.A. Planning to work in Canada for 10yrs. seeks well educated, Good looking Fair Girl from a Hindu Nadar family Preferably working in a Software field.

7397420356

CHENNAI BASED Telugu Chettiar 33/ 170cms, Hastham, Ms., Non-IT, lives in Germany seeks slim software professional willing to work in Germany CNB. Ct: 9360104579

TELUGU

NAIDU BALIJA 1990/180cm/MBA 15L PA working as Sr.Manager Chennai seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 8903080519

BALIJA NAIDU, Uthiram, II padam, fair, 27/182, MBA, HR Director, MNC Company, Chennai seeks fair PG good family background bride. Subsect no bar. 9444120151/ 9841654647

GAVRA NAIDU 29/179 Maham/ Simmam (Hearing Impaired) M.Com working Chennai 25Kpm, + Rental Income, Only son, Seeks Suitable Bride, Subsect no Bar. Ct: 9791453205 / 9884498435

KAMMAVAR NAIDU 28, 174 cm Pooram-Simmam B.E. M.S(USA) working in Los Angeles USA seeks bride from same community working/studying in USA, CT.9442026567

KSHATRIYA RAJU 41/170cm Sr.Mgr seeks bride same caste or Naidu from Chennai ct: 9283745012/ 9283639941.

RICH BALIJA Naidu 31/M.B.A., FamousTextiles Silk showrooms (T. Nagar) OwnColleges 1000 Crores Family seeks anyTelugu Rich Bride. 9087604894

KSHATRIYA RAJU, 46 (Unmarried), Chennai, seeks suitable bride. Ph: 9283727500, 9941372511.

BRAHMIN 28 5ft 9inch SBI Asst Mgr 70K Pm Minor Pblm In Right Hand Call: 9246268415

NAIDU, 27/180CM, BTech, MS, Pooraltadhi , Working as Research Engineer in Sweden. Contact 9566682220

NAIDU, 29/180, Handsome, B.E, MS, SWE, MNC, USA, 100000.$.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 7299576644, 7092601552

CHENNAI BASED Telugu Chettiar 33/ 170cms, Hastham, Ms., Non-IT, lives in Germany seeks slim software professional willing to work in Germany CNB. Ct: 9360104579

URDU

SENIOR EXECUTIVE/MNC Chennai Divorcee 39/5.6 with one male child 7y seek bride up to 30 years. 9962398590

SMU/AGE 40/ Unmarried/BBA/MANAGER Shipping Company in Chennai,well settled Urdu Speaking Bride 9094535986

MUSLIM BOY 28/178cm BE(ECE) MS(USA) Proj Mngr MNC Chennai, 21LPM, well to do family 9445556810

MARRIAGE BUREAU

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DOCTOR

BITS PILANI Engineer 6'1 Handsome Mudaliar Boy Born in Nov 91 Working in Top Corporate at Bangalore Salary of 35-40lakhs. Seeks Bride 5 '4 above. Doctors preferred. Ct 7382620365.

HINDU NADAR, 36/5.11, Doctor, M.S. (Optha). Consultant in USA, Divorced within very short period (Null & Void) seeks Doctor Bride with good looking/ Family background. Ct: 99524 07380.

HINDI

Affectionate man, Loving Family, Secure Future, Non Smoker, Veg. Good Horoscope. Handsome, own business. Nagpur based. Rajput. 49 but looks very young. 5'6", B Com. Divorced in a month, issueless. Looking for simple, homeloving bride. 7770017026.

NORTH INDIAN (Kataria) 31/B. Tech.,Own Industries, above 10Lacs p.m.Rich seeks any North Indian (Delhi) Bride. Caste No barW.App: 9444401000

33/ 5'2"unmarried boy (Renal Transplanted) BE, MBA, IIT (M) from well settled professional Agarwal family of Chennai seeks qualified like minded bride. No other Conditions or bar.

Whatsapp : 9841060505

TAMIL

ISAI VELLALAR caste No Bar / 31/ 169cm Doctor (MBBS MD DM) working and getting handsome salary. Well settled family. Seeking Educated Girl / Doctor / BE/ MBA/ Professional from decent family contact 97909 38394

HINDU Nadar State Bank of India Deputy Manager 26yrs/180cm Fair Punarpoosam, Seeks Fair, Govt Employed girl, same caste. 9443419510, dpminslakshmi@gmail.com

TAMIL SAIVA Muthaliyar 28,M. E(Civil)Govt.Job, 65,000/pm Chennai Based. Ashwini, Mesha Rasi. 8681967025

A WELL settled healthy, hindu age 57 separated, seeks broad minded, elite, independent lady as companion & soulmate No bar Call: 7397087032

PILLAIMAR 30/175, B.Tech, MBA, Thiruvonam, Raaghu Dosam, Good Looking, Manager Pvt Co, Chennai, 9L PA, own house. seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 90435 41625 / 88888 20894.

✔ **TAMIL BOY,**30,170,BE,SWE,SC-CASTE No Bar, Ayilam , well settled family in Bangalore. Seeks Bride below 28yrs from well settled/educated family. Contact 9845401461.

HINDU VELLALA Pillai, Thiruvonam, 28yrs/177cm, M.E., Handsome, BOB-Nationalised Bank Officer seeks suitable Bride Central/ State/ Govt. Staff/ Govt.Schools/ Colleges. Sub Caste No Bar. Ct: 63747 41850/ 97151 91579.

OBC Bride for Mudaliar Groom 32 years, BE ,MBA 178cm Govt 75K, Employed or settled. Ct: 94449 25350

MUDLIYAR SAIVAM 28/172cm,Astam very fair, BE, SWE, TCS, Chennai.6 to 7L P/A. Rich Family Ct: 95662 77372.

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Lack of street lights on Peenya flyover poses a threat to motorists

There is also waterlogging when it rains; complaints have fallen on deaf ears

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

Motorists and several other commuters using Goraguntepalya flyover (Peenya Flyover) continue to risk their travel with non-functional stree tlights and waterlogging on the flyover whenever it rains in the city. Despite receiving several reminders from the city traffic police, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) continues to buy time to fix the problem.

Devendra R., a regular user of Tumakuru Road, said, "Ever since the flyover closed for heavy vehicles, the traffic congestion has increased on the main lanes. Adding to this, waterlogging on the flyover is another problem. Non-functioning of streetlights make riding dangerous on the stretch at night. The NHAI should take measures to fix the problem at the earliest."

The Joint Commissioner of Traffic had held a meeting with the NHAI regarding the issue and directed them to fix the problem.

Ever since the flyover was closed for heavy vehicles, the traffic congestion has increased on the main lanes. • MURALI KUMAR K

Deputy Commissioner of police West (traffic) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain, "We have been sending oral and written communication asking the NHAI to fix the problem. Non-functional street lights is posing a risk to motorists. Due to waterlogging on the flyover, the rain water spills over on the motorists and vehicles moving on the main lanes. We have communicated to the NHAI officials to repair or replace the street lights at the earliest."

Speaking to *The Hindu*, M.K. Wathore, Chief General Manager of the NHAI, said that the proposal has been sent to the higher-ups to fix the problem.

Meanwhile, there is no clarity on when the NHAI will allow the heavy vehicles on the flyover.

Movement of heavy vehicles has been closed for nearly five months. Mid-February, after closing the flyover for repair for over 50 days, light motor vehicles were allowed on the flyover. It is said that the ban on heavy vehicles is likely to continue till the year-end.

Pedestrians risk lives to cross the road

On Tumakuru Road, lack of safe passage for pedestrians is posing a threat to the lives of people. Tall promises made by the authorities on building skywalks and subways remain on paper. At busy junctions, such as 8th mile, Dasarahalli and Jalahalli, every day, hundreds of people cross the busy road. Motorists are seen violating traffic signal, parking vehicles on the pedestrian paths and causing inconveniences. At these junctions, the traffic police have carried out drives to create awareness on safe pedestrian crossing. A cop said, "Lack of safe pedestrian crossing is an issue. During peak time, 50 to 100 people cross the road at times. If motorists follow lane discipline and traffic rules, it becomes easier for pedestrians to cross the road."

2,500 buildings in Shivaram Karanth Layout regularised

Regularisation certificates to be issued from May 13

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Approximately 2,500 buildings have been regularised by the Supreme Court, based on the reports of Justice A.V. Chandrashekhar Committee. These are buildings that have come up in the 17 villages notified for the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout that is being developed by the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA).

These are building that have come up in 17 villages notified for the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout • FILE PHOTO

A press release from the Justice A.V. Chandrashekhar Committee stated that the regularisation certificates would be issued to the building owners from May 13 at the Urdu Primary School in Medi Agrahara. Beneficiaries will have to bring with them a passport size photograph, Aadhaar card and receipt of the committee. The release stated that beneficiaries would receive an SMS regarding the time and date they can collect the regularisation certificate.

Many property owners have already received SMS intimation about the regularisation of their buildings. Most of these buildings were developed between December 2014 and March 2018. In December 2014, the High Court of Karnataka had quashed the preliminary notification for land acquisition for the layout. However, in March 2018, the Supreme Court upheld the notification and ordered the development of the layout, and appointed the Justice A.V. Chandrashekhar Committee to identify lawful buildings in the notified area. The Supreme Court had also ordered that 13 BDA approved layouts and two multiple-storey apartment complexes under construction to not be acquired for the layout.

The committee received a total of 7,161 applications for regularisation of buildings developed on notified lands in 17 villages. The committee had stated earlier that the applications were being categorised into four baskets – per-2014, between 2014 and 2018, spillover works started before 2018, and post 2018.

Impersonator misuses I-T officer's photo

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Cybercrime officials are on the lookout for an impersonator who misused the profile photo of a top official of the I-T Department and sent messages to the staff.

Based on the complaint filed by Muralidhar Raju, official with the I-T head quarters, the police on Friday registered an FIR against the unknown person charging him under impersonation, cheating and under various Sections of the IT Act.

In his complaint, Mr. Raju said that that the accused had used the profile photo of Dinesh Chandra Patwari, Principal Chief Commissioner, Karnataka and Goa and sent messages to the I-T staff.

The staff verified the number and later realised that someone was misusing the name and picture of their senior.

The police are now trying to track down the accused based on the mobile phone numbers provided by the officials.

Three held for duping investors

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The North East cyber crime police on Saturday arrested three persons from Ballari for allegedly cheating gullible investors through a fake investment consultancy firm.

Based on a complaint by one of the investors, a team of police tracked down Rahmatulla, 29, Mallaiah Swamy, 29 and C. Durgappa, 28 from Siraguppa taluk and recovered three phones, six SIM cards and other gadgets. The accused would call the gullible posing as executives from a 'Make In Profit', and offer them advice to invest and earn huge returns.

Ragi Kana turns 5, celebrations on May 14, 15

It has developed into a bridge among rural artisans, producers and the urban consumers

VEENA G
BENGALURU

Since five years, every Sunday, Bengalureans have had the opportunity of connecting with and buying directly from rural artisans and producers a wide array of items – ranging from khadi and handlooms to naturally grown groceries and vegetables. This space 'Ragi Kana' – is celebrating its fifth anniversary on May 14 and 15.

A santhe at Ragi Kana in Bengaluru. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Two organisations – Gram Seva Sangh and Hulkul Muniswamappa Munivenkatamma Charitable Trust – came together to run the 'Ragi Kana'. The trust runs a school for underprivileged children.

The school has an 18-acre campus where ragi, paddy and other agricultural produce are grown and harvested. The threshing floor to harvest it on is called Kana in Kannada and hence, the santhe is named after it.

It all began when Prasanna, theatre artist and activist, Narendra, the Secretary of the trust, Abhilash, secretary of the Gram Sevak Sangh, Shyamala, Arum, Chokkalingam, Vikas and Gayathri – the core team members, started thinking about how there can be a profitable marketplace for skilled people in rural areas. The idea was to prevent them from migrating in search of better opportunities, while the extra challenge was to eliminate middlemen.

Initially, the volunteering team had to reach out to farmers, weavers, and artisans to convince them to sell here. But now, it is no longer a struggle to convince the sellers. It is a challenge to source the right product from the right people.

"Since the most amount that consumers pay goes to the producers themselves, sellers are confident that they have a market for their products. Over time, we have had many organisations, many artisans who reach out to us to let them put up stalls," said Mr. Prasanna.

Volunteers go out of their way to verify that the potential seller is genuinely in need of a market.

"Producers from Belagavi or Sirsi cannot come to sell every week in the santhe. They send their products via bus, and we have salespersons who represent the weaver or farmer," he added.

The two-day anniversary celebrations will include activities, discussions, workshops, storytelling, poetry recital, cooking demonstrations and musical performances.

Three killed in head-on collision between vehicles

Deceased include a 6-month-old baby

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Three persons, including a six-month-old baby boy, were killed and two others injured when the SUV they were travelling in collided head-on with a KSRTC bus on the outskirts of Sathanur on Saturday morning.

The deceased have been identified as Manoj, the driver of the SUV, Akshatha, 27 and her six-month-old son Sumanth.

The injured were identified as Sudhindra and his relative, who are recovering in a hospital.

Car mangled

According to the police, the injured Sudhindra , a cashier at a restaurant in Kanakapura, had gone to his native place Udupi along with his family last week and were returning home.

While the SUV reached Kemmallidoddi village on the outskirts of Sathanur, the SUV collided with the KSRTC bus, the police said.

The impact of the accident was so high that the car was mangled and the victims were stuck inside the vehicle.

Passers-by rushed to help and pulled out the victims and shifted them to the hospital before alerting the Sathanur police.

The police have taken up a case and fiurther investigation is underway.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, MAY. 08	
RISE 05:57	SET 18:36
RISE 11:46	SET 00:08
MONDAY, MAY. 09	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 12:37	SET 00:53
TUESDAY, MAY. 10	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:36
RISE 13:29	SET 01:35

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	25
Mysuru	33	22
Bengaluru	33	21

Bengaluru Today
33°C The weather will be warm and humid. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds are likely at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C A warm and humid weather to prevail.Night also will be comfortable. Thunderstorm may occur.

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THE HINDU
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IN BRIEF

Emergency teams to be active all year: BBMP

BENGALURU

Emergency teams that were usually put in place during the monsoon months at the sub-division level will now work round the year, said Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP's new Chief Commissioner. Speaking to reporters here on Saturday, he said that he had reviewed the civic body's rain preparedness and by May 25, emergency teams would be in place at the sub-division level. These teams will be equipped with all the necessary machinery.

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(Department of Public Instruction)
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TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-procurement only)

Tenders are invited under Two Bid System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible printers, having Infrastructure as specified in the **Tender Document to print and supply of 1.10 lakhs of textbooks for PUC I & II Year Students located within the State of** Karnataka for the Year 2022-23. Eligible printers may offer their bidding up to **5.30 P.M. on 17.05.2022.** Tender document is made available in e-portal as well as department website e-Procurement portal address: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Portal Help line: **080-46010000 /080-22631200** Department Website: **https://www.ktbs.kar.nic.in**

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EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PROJECT DIVISION, BIDAR
NO. EE/P.D/BIDAR/T.A/KKRDB/TENDER/2022-23/76 DATE:04/05/2022

SHORT TERM E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka State, as per Karnataka transparency act 1999 and 2000 item wise e-procurement tendering is notified for following prescribed 01 road works from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered in public work, port and inland water transport department (PWP & IWTD), and panchayat raj engineering department (PRED) (RS. 17593745.56 Lakhs) (Rs. One Crore Seventy Five Lakhs Ninety Three Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five and Fifty Six Paisa only.) From such eligible category contractors tenders are invited For details and documents please log on to website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and requested to submit the applications.

Work Indent No: KRRDA/2021-22/RD/WORK_INDENT5457

1) Last date for submission of bidding rates through E-procurement: **18-05-2022 up to Evening 4.00 pm**, 2) Opening of technical bid: **20-05-2022** by Evening 04.30 pm Onwards 3) Opening of financial bid: **23-05 -2022 by Morning 11.30 am Onwards** Or After Approval of Technical Bid

If at all the dates mentioned above happens to be declared government general holidays the very next working day will be considered for the event.

DIP/Bidar/56/MC&A/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer,Project Division, Bidar.**

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
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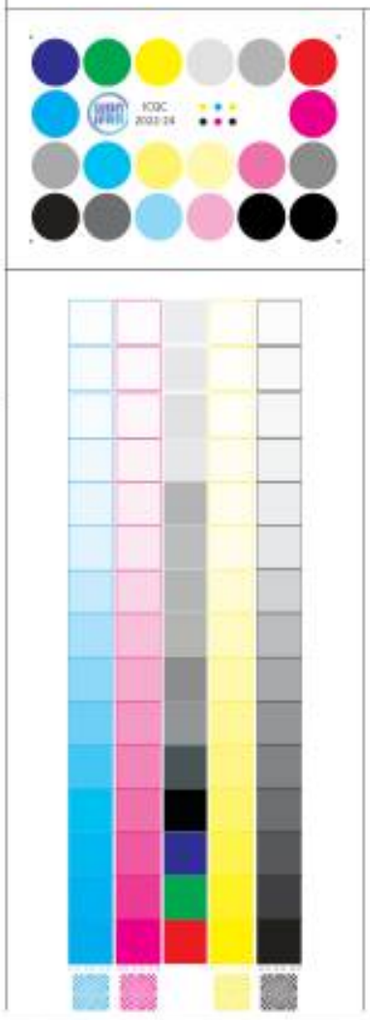
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919
No. KPCL/2022-23/PS/WORK_INDENT 12251 Dated: 21.04.2022

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal Only)

Bids are invited through GoK e-Procurement platform **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** from the qualified bidders for Design, engineering, manufacture, quality surveillance, testing at supplier's Works (including type and special tests), transportation, delivery on FOR basis to Raichur Thermal Power Station, Shaktinagar, Karnataka State. **1 No. 250MVA, 15.75/420KV, two winding, 3 Phase, 50Hz, outdoor 14.5% impedance voltage at 250MVA Base YNd1 connected spare Generator Transformer (without cooler bank). ±10% OCTC in steps of 2.5% per step and ONAN/ONAF/ODAF or OFAF cooled along with accessories with first filling of Oil and 10% extra oil** in non-returnable steel drums, essential spares, along with supervision of Erection, Testing & Commissioning. The details of tender documents can be seen on KPCL website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in** and downloaded from GoK e-proc. **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Pre-bid meeting: **17.05.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.** Last date for receipt of completed bids: **21.06.2022 at 17.00 Hrs.** Opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I): **23.06.2022 at 11.00 Hrs.** and Price Bid (Cover-II): **Will be intimated later.** Further details can be had from the **Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs),** KPCL, No. 3, (Green Building), 2nd Floor, Behind Drug Controller Office Premises, Palace Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. Mobile: 91416 07845 (Exe. Engr. Ele-2). E-mail: kpclcetd@gmail.com ; cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in



PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby Notified that, my client has entered into an agreement to purchase the schedule property mentully described in the Schedule hereunder from 1. Sri. Sudhendra Dankankote S/o late D.Narayana Rao and late D.Saraswathi Devi, 2 smt Pavithra Dankankote D/o late D. Narayana Rao and late D. Saraswathi Devi and 3. Sri Ravindra Dankankote S/o late D.Narayana Rao and late D.Saraswathi Devi, represented Sl.No. 2 & 3 their General Power of Attorney Holder and brother Sri.Sudhendra Dankankote S/o Late D.Narayana Rao and Late D.Saraswathi Devi, aged about 60 years, Residing at No. 130, 47th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore 560 010, herein after called the VENDORS are the sole and absolute owners and in possession of the Schedule property. If any person or persons having any manner of right, title, interest, share or claim what so ever over the schedule property may file their objections in writing to the under signed within 10 days from the date of this publication, along with documentary evidence in support of the said claims failing which any such claims by anyone shall not be considered and shall be deemed to have been waived and/or abandoned. And my client shall proceed to conclude the transaction and no claims shall be entertained thereafter.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of Property bearing Site New Municipal No.7, PID No.22-54-7, Previous Municipal No. 130/7, Old site No. 130, situated at 47th Cross, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, BBMP old Division No.2, then ward No.22, New Ward No. 107, Bangalore. Measuring East to West: 32' feet and North to South : 45' foot, in all measuring 1440 Sq.ft, along with RCC roofed Residential building and bounded as follows: East by : Property bearing No. 131, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Property bearing No. 143.

V. Rajanna, Manju Aradhya, Advocates, No.8, 2nd Cross, Mallige Thota, Magadi Road, Bangalore- 560 023. Mobile: 9343785672
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I, K. P.Rajini D/O K.R .Parthiban, born on 10-05-1978 residing at Door No:3- 51,M.G. Road,Ekamberakuppam ,Chittoor District,A.P. Pin-517592 changed my name to M.Y.Durga vide affidavit dated 01-04-2022 sworn before notary Mr.P.Chiranjeevulu, Nagari

I, GOURI Krishna alias Gouri Tanmoy, D/o of P.Kesavan, R/o 306, Chitrakut Environs, 9th crs, talacauvery layout, Basavanagar, Blore 37 have changed my name to Gauri Anashata vide affidavit dated 5/5/2022 at Bangalore.

I, Salil Shete S/o Madusudan Shete, R/o: T1 A 1303, Candeur Carlisle, 55 Itpl Main Road, Maheshwari Nagar, B Narayanpura, Mahadevpura, Bengaluru-560048, changed my name from Salil Shete to Salil Madusudan Shete for all purposes.

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State Govt. notifies 3.3 lakh ha of land as deemed forest

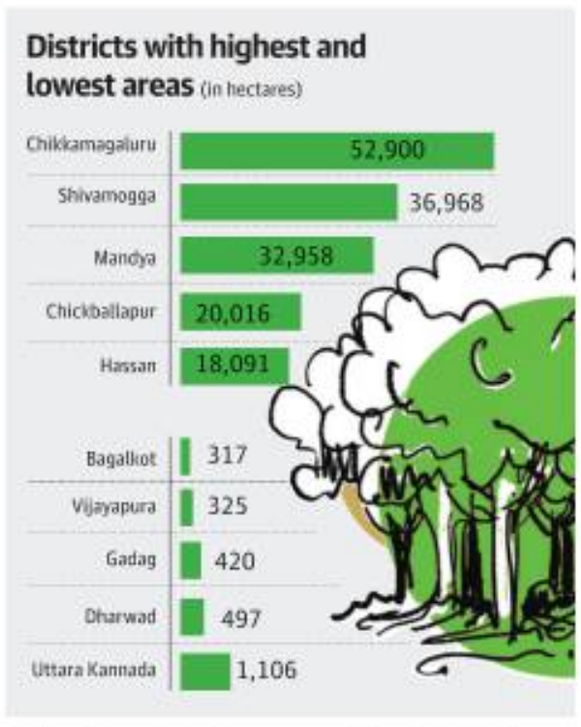
Area down from earlier 9.94L ha

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

The State Government has notified a total of 3.3 lakh hectares of land in the State as deemed forest.

The notification dated May 5 by the Under Secretary to Department of Forest Environment and Ecology, M. Satyavati, states that the total land includes 2.21 lakh hectares of deemed forest land identified by the Reconstituted Expert Committee-1 and 1.08 lakh hectares of land which was not included by the expert committee but meets the local requirements for calling it as forest.

Releasing copies of the notification in Udupi, Minister of Minister for Forest, Food and Civil Supplies Umesh Katti said the earlier expert committee had identified 9.94 lakh hectares as deemed forest land. As these lands included farm lands and revenue lands, the expert committee was reconstituted to have a fresh look on deemed forest.



"Ultimately we have decided to retain 3.30 lakh hectares of deemed forest. The remaining 6 lakh hectares will be declassified and given to revenue department," Mr. Katti said. The State Government can allot the declassified land to persons who have been illegally cultivating on the Government land. The declassified land can also be used for building hospitals, schools, and other public utility infrastructure.

The Forest Department is committed to further greening of the 3.3 lakh hectares of deemed forest land, he said.

As per the notification, highest of 52,900 hectares of deemed forest is in Chikkamagaluru district, followed by 36,968 hectares in Shivamogga district, 32,958 hectares in Mandya, 20,016 hectares in Chickballapur, 18,091 hectares in Hassan, 16,954 hectares in Bidar, 13,388 hectares in Tumakuru, 13,302 hectares in Koppal, 12,832 hectares in Kalaburagi, 12,181 hectares in Dakshina Kannada, 12,135 hectares in Ballari district, and 10,769 hectares in Udupi district.

The least extent of deemed forest is 317 hectares in Bagalkot district, followed by 325 hectares in Vijayapura, 420 hectares in Gadag, and 497 hectares in Dharwad district.

As much as 2,166 hectares of land in Bengaluru, 3,416 hectares in Bengaluru Rural, 3,389 hectares in Ramanagaram, and 6,430 hectares in Mysuru district has been declared as deemed forest.

Planters happy, small farmers uncertain

Farmers' outfits want Govt. to clarify how bagair hukum cultivators will benefit

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

Revenue Minister R. Ashok's announcement on denotifying 'deemed forest' and granting the same for planters on a lease has attracted mixed reactions in the Malnad region. While the decision has been welcomed by the planters' association, those working for small farmers and agricultural labourers are wary.

Mr. Ashok had said that this move would benefit both the planters, who had been cultivating the land that they possess illegally, and bagair hukum cultivators. Recently, he held meetings with planters in Hassan and Chikkamagaluru, where the coffee planters demanded that the issue of land encroachment was resolved at the earliest.

As per the Minister's statement, the encroachers would get the land for a period of 30 years on lease. They would have to pay annual rent.

H.T. Mohan Kumar, president of Karnataka Growers Federation, told *The Hindu* that he welcomes the Minister's statement. "We had placed this demand before the Minister and he has agreed to it," he said. The planters had appealed to him to fix annual rent for land, depending upon the extent of land that each grower would get. "I have not gone into the details of the issue. But, by and large, his statement is an assurance to fulfill our long-pending demand," he said.

Officials conducting a survey of forest land in Chikkamagaluru district. • FILE PHOTO

Benefit only rich?

However, farmers' organisations want the government to clarify how the bagair hukum cultivators would be benefited from this decision. "Vast extent of land had been notified as deemed forest, considering the satellite images of the locality. Because of this, many bagair hukum cultivators could not get the land granted. For them, the government has to grant absolute ownership, not lease of some years. The Minister has to clarify his stand on this issue", said H.R. Basavarajappa, honorary president of Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha.

Mr. Ashok's statement on deemed forests has come a few weeks after the government proposed to release patches of land - gomala, gayarana, soppinabetta, hallubanni - to private parties and institutions. The Cabinet has formed a subcommittee under the Ashok to work modalities for the same.

K.L. Ashok, State secretary of Karnataka Janashakti, alleged that the government had been taking decisions to favour only the rich and super-rich. "Earlier, they decided to give away patches of land. to private people. Now, they want to extend benefits to private parties, who already own vast acres of land," he said.

For years, thousands of people had not been able to get a small piece of land to build their houses in the Malnad region. "The government is hardly bothered about such poor people. Their applications submitted over the years are still pending", he said. Further, he argued that all these decisions were to favour the big corporate companies, eyeing on the vast extent of fertile land.

Conservationists question rationale behind denotification of forest land

SPECIAL CORESPONDENT
MYSURU

The Government's decision to denotify nearly 6.34 lakh hectares of deemed forest and reduce its quantum from 9.94 lakh hectares to 3.3 lakh hectares has been described as a questionable move that goes against the grain of conservation.

Experts and conservationists who have studied the GO on the denotification have also questioned the basis on which the Forest Department arrived at the figure of 6.34 lakh hectares for denotification. It has also been critiqued on the grounds that the Government was legalising large-scale encroachment.

For instance, the GO has argued that totaling and conversion error had led to wrong estimation and this was pegged at 82,089.96 hectares. Seeking details of the survey on the basis of which the figures were arrived, a conservationist The Hindu spoke to pointed out that 27,604.61 hectares had been written off and denotified on the grounds that there was repetition of the survey numbers.

Blind eye

Besides, 43,357.50 hectares has been denotified on the ground that government land was not available in the survey numbers and activists have argued that it could mean the government turned a blind eye to encroachment ever since the first survey by the Reconstituted Expert Committee-1 submitted its report on deemed forests way back in 2002.

The report filed by the Reconstituted Expert Committee defined deemed forests as land with the characteristic of the forests, irrespective of the ownership and this included thickly wooded areas with the Revenue Department but not handed over to the Forest Department.

Even the C&D class lands which is handed over to the Forest Department can be treated as deemed forests and the deemed forest area in the State was pegged at 9,94,881 hectares.

More than 1.35 lakh hectares of reserve forest was wrongly included under deemed forest category and its omission is not being questioned as the area will still remain under the Forest Department.

But the GO dated May 5, 2022, states that more than 1.62 lakh hectares of land is being denotified and removed from the class of deemed forest status as it does not have more than 50 trees per hectare.

"This raises questions about the efficacy of the afforestation measures taken by the authorities all these years and amounts to admitting its failure," said a conservationist, who did not wish to be named.

Pramod Madhwaraj joins BJP hours after leaving Congress

Pramod Madhwaraj , Varthur Prakash, Sandesh Nagaraj and others joining the BJP in the presence of BJP State president Nalin Kumar Kateel and Ministers. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MANGALURU

Ending several days of speculation, senior Congress leader and former Minister of Fisheries Pramod Madhwaraj on Saturday tendered his resignation to the primary membership of the Congress party and joined the BJP in Bengaluru along with a few other Congress and JD (S) leaders hours later.

In a letter addressed to Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president D.K. Shivakumar, Mr. Madhwaraj said since last three years situation in Udupi District Congress has been a bad experience for him and it was leading to "political suffocation." He had brought these facts to the notice of Mr. Shivakumar and other Congress leaders.

"I have observed that no worthwhile steps have been taken by the party to redress my grievance regarding the prevailing situation in Udupi district Congress," he said.

He went on to state: "Due to circumstances explained above, I have reached a point wherein it is becoming impossible for me to continue in the Congress and to do justice to the new post that has been assigned to me recently. "

Mr. Madhwaraj said he humbly contributed towards the growth of the Congress in Udupi district and has spent his hard earned money for this purpose. The Congress, in return, has reciprocated by offering him various posts in the Government during his term as elected representative. He was recently appointed as one of the vice-presidents of KPCC. "I hasten to express my gratitude to all Congress leaders and party workers through this letter of resignation," he said.

Political family

The 54-year-old Mr. Pramod comes from the family that has represented the Udupi Assembly constituency six times. Mr. Pramod's father Malpe Madhwaraj got elected on Congress ticket in 1962. His mother Manorama Madhwaraj was elected four times between 1972 and 1989 from the constituency and served as Minister for 15 years. She joined the BJP and became the Udupi Member of Parliament in 2004.

Mr. Pramod defeated the present Udupi MLA K. Raghupathi Bhat in 2013 by a margin of 39,000 votes and became the Minister for Fisheries and Youth Services and Sports in the Siddaramaiah's government.

Mr. Pramod, who is Managing Partner of Raj Fish Meal and Oil Company, served for three years as general secretary of the National Fish workers' Federation.

Varthur Prakash, Sandesh Nagaraj too

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Congress leader and former Minister Varthur Prakash, former JD(S) MLA Manjunath Gowda, former JD(S) MLC Sandesh Nagaraj, and former Rajya Sabha member and Congress leader K.B. Krishnamurthy joined the ruling BJP on Saturday with their supporters.

The leaders joined the BJP in the presence of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and State BJP president Nalin Kumar Kateel, among others.

Former IRS officer Lakshmi Ashwin Gowda and Mandya district leader Ashok Jayaram too joined the BJP.

'In batches'

On May 6, Mr. Bommai said leaders from Kolar, Mandya, and Udupi were keen to join BJP. He said that leaders were being inducted "in batches".

Vet services on the doorsteps of farmers

Call toll-free 1962 for making use of services

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Government on Saturday flagged off 70 veterinary mobile ambulances to provide emergency services to domestic animals at the doorsteps of farmers.

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched the facility. Minister for Animal Husbandry Prabhu Chavan said 275 animal ambulances would be rolled out. In the first phase, 70 ambulances have been delivered. The State has 290 lakh domestic animals and on an average one ambulance would provide services to one lakh animals. The mobile veterinary services project would provide timely treatment on receipt of toll-free calls at 1962 at the doorstep of the livestock owner and help in maintaining the health of animals, increasing the productivity of animals, Mr. Chavan said. The Centre was funding the ambulance project. Similar projects had already been launched in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Gujarat.

Mobile Veterinary Clinic vehicles were launched in front of Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Saturday. • K. MURALI KUMAR

When a distress call from the livestock owner is received at any time of the day at the 1962 Emergency Response Centre, basic details are collected and information disseminated to the nearest ambulance. The ambulance along with the veterinary doctor and assistant reach the doorstep of the livestock owner, assess the condition of the sick cattle and provide on-site treatment.

Proposals invited for Kuvempu fellowship

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Kuvempu Bhasha Bharathi Pradhikara (KBBP) has invited applications for Kuvempu Fellowships in two categories - Senior (2) and Junior (1).

Applicants in the senior category should have completed 35 years, while the maximum age limit is 35 for junior fellowship. Those interested may submit their applications by June 6, 2022. Details are on KBBP website www.kuvempubhashabharathi.karnataka.gov.in

Canara Bank logs profit of ₹1,666 cr.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Canara Bank logged a standalone net profit of ₹1,666 crore in Q4, 2021-22. It rose by 65% when compared to ₹1,011 crore clocked in the year ago quarter.

Likewise, the Bengaluru headquartered bank's total income improved from ₹21,040 crore to ₹22,320 crore in the analysed quarter, rising by 6%.

The public sector bank was able to record these profits due to 50% lower provisioning for NPAs, which stood at ₹2,130 crore in Q4 while it was ₹4,430 crore in the last quarter of 2020-21.

According to the audited results shared with the stock exchanges, Canara Bank's bad loans declined to 7.51% of its gross advances. Comparatively, they amounted to 8.93% at the end of Q4, 2020-21.

Non-performing assets were valued at ₹55,652 crore while they were ₹60,288 crore in Q4, 2020-2021. The bank declared dividend of ₹6.5 per share for shareholders.

Sahitya academy to hold literary and nature study camp

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

To commemorate the birth centenary of B.G.L. Swamy, the Karnataka Sahitya Academy will organise a three-day study camp titled 'B.G.L Swamy literature and nature study camp' from May 27 at Honnemaradu in Sagar Taluk, Shivamogga district.

Last date

The academy has invited applications from those interested and aged between 20 and 40. The last date to submit applications is May 13, 2022, according to a release from the academy.

Details can be obtained from http://sahityaacademy .Karnataka.gov.in.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Mrs. SARASWATHI NILAKANTAN
92 years
wife of late Brigadier A.Nilakantan (Army Medical Corps)
attained the Lotus Feet of the Lord on 07th May 2022 after a brief illness
Deeply mourned by Sons, Daughter-in-law, Grandchildren and Great grandchildren, Sisters, Brother, Sisters-in-law and other close relatives.

THE TAMILNADU COOPERATIVE MARKETING FEDERATION LTD.,
91, St. Mary's Road, Chennai 18.

EMPANELMENT OF MANUFACTURER
Name of Supply: Seeds, Pesticides, Agricultural Implements, Bio-Pesticides. Bio-Fertilisers Organic Manure and Micro Nutrient
For the Period from June 2022 to May 2023

For and on behalf of Tamilnadu Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited Chennai, (TANFED), Thanjavur Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Thiruvarur (TCMF) and Nilgiris Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd., Udagamandalam (NCMS), Applications are invited by the Managing Director, TANFED for Empanelment of Manufacturers for the supply of the mentioned items for the Quantity mentioned against each items from the Manufacturers only on FOL destination delivery basis for the period from June 2022 to May 2023.

Sl.No	Variety	Approximate value of purchase in Rs. Lakhs with variation (+/-25%)			
		TANFED	TCMF	NCMS	TOTAL
1	Seeds (All Varieties Including Traditional Seed Varieties)	150	800	100	1050
2	Pesticides (All Varieties) Liquid Powder	40	-	150	190
3	Agricultural Implements (All Types)	10	20	6	36
4	Bio Pesticides (All Varieties) Liquid Powder	10	-	-	10
5	Bio Fertilisers (All Varieties) Liquid Powder	70	-	-	70
6	Organic Manure	400	33	60	493
7	Micro Nutrient	350	-	-	350
	Total	1030	853	316	2199

Prescribed Application form containing part A and part B for each product can be obtained on payment of Rs.1000/- + GST 12% by cash or Demand Draft drawn in favour of "The Managing Director, Tamilnadu Cooperative Marketing Federation Ltd., Chennai - 18" between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. on all working days from 10.05.2022 to 25.05.2022 either in person or through post. Tender schedules may also be down loaded from our website: www.tanfed.tn.gov.in

The Filled in Application Form in a sealed two cover system duly superscribing part "A" and Part "B" and name of the product to be supplied for which the application is made be addressed to "The Managing Director, TANFED, Chennai -18". The application must be accompanied by required earnest money Deposit by way of Demand Draft for the respective amount as mentioned in part A of the application. The application forms should reach the above mentioned office on or before 26.05.2022 latest by 2.00 P.M. The Filled in Application forms so received will be opened by the Managing Director, TANFED, Chennai-18, in the presence of the applicants who choose to be present at that time.

DIPR/440/Display/2022

MANAGING DIRECTOR

சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

Is CM post a payment seat in BJP, asks Siddaramaiah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Leader of the Opposition Siddaramaiah on Saturday demanded a probe into senior BJP leader and MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal's claims on payment of ₹2,500 crore for the Chief Minister's post and ₹100 crore per ministerial berths in the ruling BJP Government in the State.

"The allegation by Mr. Yatnal that the demand for ₹2,500 crore to make him the Chief Minister is a serious issue. Only an investigation will reveal the truth," he said in a press statement here. "If the investigation is not conducted, it only implies that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has accepted to have paid crores of rupees to become the Chief Minister," he said.

Mr. Yatnal's statement indicated the volume of the BJP's corruption. He should be called for investigation, Mr. Siddaramaiah said. Mr Yatnal has revealed that the Chief Minister's chair was a "payment seat" and bought through "auction", he said. "There should also be investigation on how much money is being paid by defected candidates to the BJP leadership," he added.

Connected scams

There was a link to Mr. Yatnal's allegation and the scams in the government such as 40% commission from contractors, PSI scam, assistant professor recruitment scam, and scam in the Health Department. All these scams need to be investigated, the Opposition leader said.

Those who have made payments to be the Chief Minister and Ministers have entered into commission business. "Mr. Yatnal's allegations are not new. He has previously made allegations against the Chief Minister, and Ministers on various scams. Why is their high command silent? Mr. Siddaramaiah asked.

'Party leadership will take suitable decision'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

The BJP's Central leadership will take a suitable decision with regard to senior leader Basanagouda Yatnal's recent controversial statement, said BJP's State vice-president B.Y. Vijayendra in Shivamogga on Saturday.

Speaking to pressperson, Mr.Vijayendra said the party's State president, the Chief Minister and the central leadership had taken note of his statements. "He is a senior leader. Whatever he said was a serious issue. I don't want to comment on his statement. The party leadership will take a decision."

Mr. Yatnal had said someone had asked him to arrange for ₹2,500 crore to get the Chief Minister's post.

On the recent incidents of communal violence in Shivamogga, Mr. Vijayendra said there were no such incidents when B.S.Yediyurappa was the Chief Minister. "Some vested interests were trying to disturb communal harmony. When Yediyurappa was the CM, people of all religions were living with harmony."

'Southern States have a higher prevalence of hypertension'

In Karnataka, 25% women and 26.9% men in above 15 age group have hypertension

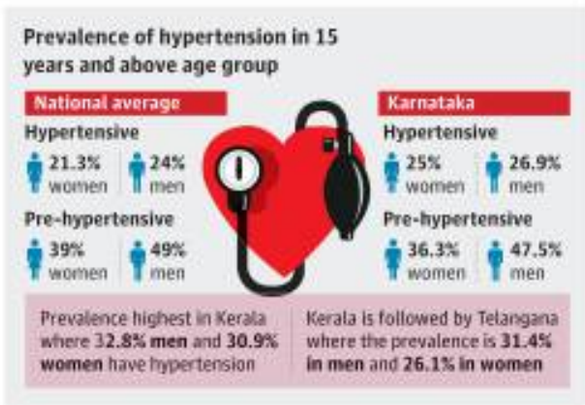
AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Southern States have a higher prevalence of hypertension than the national average, according to the NFHS-5 (2-19-2021) report.

While 21.3% of women and 24% of men aged above 15 have hypertension in the country, Karnataka has 25% women and 26.9% men in the same age group (above 15) who have hypertension.

In the pre-hypertensive category, while the prevalence is 39% women and 49% men aged above 15 in the country, Karnataka has 36.3% women and 47.5% men (in the same age group), stated the report that was recently released by the Union Health Minister.

According to the report, in Karnataka, 42.8% of women aged above 15 have normal blood pressure. While 14.8% are in the mildly elevated range, 4.2% and 1.9% have moderately and severely elevated BP respectively.



- The prevalence of hypertension is higher among Sikhs (37% for men and 31% for women), Jains (30% for men and 25% for women), and Christians (29% for men and 26% for women) than the rest. There is a consistent and steep increase in the prevalence of hypertension with increases in the body mass index (BMI) for both women and men, the survey found.

Highest in Kerala

Among the Southern States, the prevalence is the highest in Kerala where 32.8% men and 30.9% women have been diagnosed with hypertension. Kerala is followed by Telangana where the prevalence is 31.4% in men and 26.1% in women.

Overall, the report has found that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 65% of all deaths in India. The major metabolic risk factors for NCDs are obesity, high blood pressure, high blood glucose, and high total cholesterol levels in the blood.

An individual is classified as having hypertension if he/she has a systolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 140 mmHg or a diastolic blood pressure level greater than or equal to 90 mmHg or that individual is currently taking anti-hypertensive medication to lower his/her blood pressure.

Based on blood pressure measurement during the survey, 21.3% of women aged above 15 have hypertension, including 12.4% with mildly elevated blood pressure, 3.6% with moderately elevated blood pressure, and 1.6% with severely elevated blood pressure in the country.

For both women and men, the prevalence of hypertension increases sharply with age in the country. This increase is for all categories of hypertension, including pre-hypertension, for both women and men. About one-fourth of women and men aged 40-49 years have hypertension.

Even at an earlier age, one in eight women and more than one in five men aged 30-39 years have hypertension.

Religion-wise

The prevalence of hypertension is higher among Sikhs (37% for men and 31% for women), Jains (30% for men and 25% for women), and Christians (29% for men and 26% for women) than the rest. There is a consistent and steep increase in the prevalence of hypertension with increases in the body mass index (BMI) for both women and men, the survey found.

While 40% of obese men and 28 % of obese women are hypertensive, the prevalence among women is highest (35%) in Sikkim. The prevalence of hypertension among men aged above 15 years ranges from 15% in Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu to 42% in Sikkim.

High blood glucose

The patterns of high blood glucose by background characteristics are quite similar to those for hypertension. For both women and men, the prevalence of high and very high blood glucose increases sharply with age, the survey found.

The combined prevalence of high and very high blood glucose is particularly pronounced among Christian women (18%) and Christian men (17%). There is a slight increase in very high blood glucose prevalence with an increase in household wealth for both women and men.

Among the States, the prevalence of high and very high blood glucose (combined) among women aged above 15 ranges from 6% in Ladakh to 21% in Kerala. For men, the prevalence ranges from 7% each in Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir to 22% in Goa and 24% in Kerala.

Blood glucose levels

In Karnataka, 87.4% of women and 85.7% of men have normal blood glucose levels. While 5.7% and 6.8% of women have high and very high levels respectively, the prevalence in men for high and very high blood glucose levels is 6.6% and 7.6% respectively.

Toyota signs MoU with State, to invest ₹4,800 cr.

Aims at promoting greener technologies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Toyota Group of Companies will invest ₹4,800 crore in Karnataka for the local production of powertrain parts, components of electric vehicles, and also to boost innovation around electrification and greener technologies.

The companies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of Karnataka to invest ₹4,100 crore on Saturday. Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) along with Toyota Kirloskar Auto Parts (TKAP) will put in ₹4,100 crore, while a related company, Toyota Industries Engine India (TIEI), will pitch in with another ₹700 crore later.

Vikram S. Kirloskar, Vice-Chairman, Toyota Kirloskar Motor said, "We are investing ₹4,800 crore to enable a faster reduction in carbon emissions. Half of this investment has already been made while the remaining will be executed by mid next year," he told *The Hindu*.

The investments are aimed at promoting greener technologies that will help Toyota lower its dependence on fossil fuels and mitigate carbon emissions. This investment will also enable local production facilities to build electric powertrain parts and components, thereby catering to the electrified vehicle manufacturing in India, as per the MoU.

According to Mr. Kirloskar, the company will continue to focus on reducing carbon emissions in a holistic manner going beyond tailpipe emissions to address manufacturing and lifecycle CO_2 emissions to achieve its carbon neutrality goals by 2050.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who is also a mechanical engineer, urged Toyota Kirloskar Motor to bring in new, indigenous technologies in India, instead of modifying some vehicle models launched elsewhere. "I want Toyota to use new technology and bring new vehicles which are not launched anywhere in the world. Don't bring old dyes and show them as a new ones. My engineering instinct will not accept it though as a Chief Minister I may say it's okay," Mr. Bommai said at the event here on Saturday. In the last 25 years, Toyota Group of Companies has invested ₹11,812 crore in India.

PSI recruitment exam scam: 10 police personnel suspended

STAFF REPORTER
KALABURAGI

Ten police personnel were suspended on Saturday for their failure in preventing the malpractices in the PSI recruitment exam held at Gyan Jyoti English Medium School.

Sub-inspectors Shrishailamma and Najma Sultan, assistant sub-inspectors Shashikumar and Lata, head constables Parubai, Jai Bhim, Sharanappa and Damodar, and constables Pradeep and Rajashree were suspended.

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned by Govt of Karnataka)
O/o Superintending Engineer Elecl,
O&M Circle HESCOM O&M Circle HESCOM ,Vijayapur-586109
Cell:+91 94483-70248 Office: 08352 295838
E-mail ID: seebjp.hescom@gmail.com
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No. SEE/VJPR/EEE(O)/TA-1/2022-23/ CYS-15 Date:7th MAY- 2022
Short Term Tender notification (E-procurement mode only)
The Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, HESCOM, Vijayapur re-invites service tenders (2022-23) for various Services in Vijayapur Circle. The last date for receipt of bid document is **16.05.2022** before 16:00Hrs through e-procurement mode only.
The detailed bidding documents can be downloaded through e-procurement portal web site http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in .
Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele), O & M Circle HESCOM, Vijayapur
DIPR/CWD/155/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಮುವಿ/ಆಭದ್ಶಸಿವಿಭಾಗ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/೫೨, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-05-2022
ಮಂಗಳೂರು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯದ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿಭಾಗ/ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ, ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **(E-procurement portal)** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in ನಂತ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.
Name of the tender: (1) Supply of xerox paper to office of the Registrar Mangalore University, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement: **04/05/2022 16:30:13**
(2) Supply of Server Desktop Laptop Microsoft visual Studio Academic version Printer work station with Operating System and Software's For Mangalore University, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement: **04/05/2022 17:47:09**
(3) Supply Of Surveillance System And Rf Equipments And Connectivity At Mangalagangothri Mangalore University College And Jnana Kaveri Pg Centre Chikka Aluvara, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement: **05/05/2022 12:59:49**
(4) Supply of ACER Laptop Original Battery and 4 GB RAM for ACER Laptop to Central facility on IOT and Cloud Based Systems Lab, Mangalore University, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement : **05/05/2022 13:09:54**
(5) Disposal of e-waste - old/obsolete computer hardware and peripherals at Mangalore University, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement : **05/05/2022 15:07:00**
(6) Inviting tender for the printing of pattole palame book to prasanaga Mangalore University, Category: Goods, Date of publish through E-procurement: **05/05/2022 15:35:18**
DIPR/ADM/MCA/128/22-23 dt: 07.05.2022 ಸಹಿ/- ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

Office of The Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Tumkur,
Phone: 0816-2252937.
NO.04/EE/RDWS&SD/TMK/JJM/2022-23/233
Date:06.05.2022
Short-term Tender Notification
On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water Supply & Sanitation Division Tumkur has Invites request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the One and Two Cover work detailed in the table below. Tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTPP act shall be followed. The tenders are Required to submit through E-Procurement mode through portal. http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in. from Class-III & above PWD Registered Contractors who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following JJM Works of KORATAGERE and KUNIGAL Taluk of Tumkur Dist. As per the schedule given below. (Minimum Tender Amount Rs.42.66 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.85,320/- and Maximum Tender Amount Rs 118.69 Lakhs EMD Amount Rs.178035/-)
Particulars & Details: - 1. Last date of submit bids on e-portal: **16.05.2022** Upto 17.00 Hours. **2.** Pre Bid Meeting(KW-3 works) : Date: **11.05.2022** at 11.00 A M, Venue: Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking water & Sanitation Division Tumkur. **3.** Technical Opening of Bids: **17.05.2022** at 17.30 PM onwards. **4.** Financial Opening of Bids: **23.05.2022** at 11.00 AM onwards. For further particulars/ details may avail from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days and may visit the website www.eproc. karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Executve Engineer, RDW & S Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/82/MCA/2022-23

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Public Works Department
Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi
No/PWD/CKD DIV/AE-3/TENDER/2022-23/602 DATE: 06/05/2022
Short Term E-Tender Notification
EExecutive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi has invited item wise short term e-Tenders from Eligible registered contractors for the works coming under the jurisdiction of Chikodi PWD Division 5 works under head of account 5054-SCP, Amount put to tender is Rs. 175.44 Lakhs for each work.
Calendar of events :
1) Pre-bid meeting date: 30-05-2022 at 11.00 AM, at The O/o the under signed. 2) Last date for queries & clarifications : 01-06-2022 up to 5.30 PM 3) Last Date of Receipt of Bids : 03-06-2022 up to 5.00 PM 4) Date of opening of Technical bids (Two Cover System): 06-06-2022 at 4.30 PM 5) Date of opening of Financial bids (Two Cover System): "after approval of Technical bids"
For more information & forms of tender can be downloaded from www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in & departmental web site www.kpwd.gov.in. Further details can be collected from O/o Executive Engineer Public Works Dept.,Division Chikkodi during working hours.
Sd/-Executive Engineer PWD Division Chikkodi.
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-280/MCA/2022-23

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department
Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Chikkaballapura
e-Mail id:- eerdwsd.ckb2@gmail.com Mobil No: 08156 270058
No.: EE/R.D.W.& Sanitation Division /C.Pura/T.S. / Tender 2022-23 Date: 02.05.2022
e-Procurement Tender Notification No.: 02/2022-23 Date: 02.05.2022
(Through e-Procurement Portal)
On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Chikkaballapura invites itemwar tenders through e-procurement as per Rules of the Department in Standard Tender Document DBOT Form from eligible Contractors registered in Public Works Department and registered in e-Procurement organization for works related to DBOT Based Multi Village Drinking Water Scheme to Mandikal and surrounding 13 other Habitations of Chikkaballapura Taluk under JJM Scheme for the year 2022-23.
Contractors remitting application and E.M.D. in e-payment (Through Credit Card/Direct Debit/NEFT & OTC) or by filling of Challan should do it 2 days prior to the last date.
(1) Date of downloading tender documents from the website: **10.05.2022 after 4.30 PM. (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **02.06.2022 up to 4.30 PM. (3)** Date of Tender Pre-Bid Meeting: Office of The Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Chikkaballapura: **20.05.2022 at 11.00 AM. (4)** Date of opening the technical bid: **04.06.2022 at 11.00 AM. (5)** Date of opening the financial bid: **06.06.2022 at 11.00 AM**
Sd/- Executve Enginer RDW&SD, Chickballapur
ಮಾ.ಸಂ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಒ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.59/೨೦೨೨-23
HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka)
BBMP, Yalahanka Zone, Bengaluru - 560 092.
No: BBMP/SADH/YNK/TENDER/01/2022-23 Dated: 07.05.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
(Two Cover System) (Through **GOK e-Procurement Portal** only)
The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Government Departments of Karnataka State for Housekeeping Services.

Name of the Work	Approximate Value of Work (in ₹.)	EMD (in ₹.)
Maintenance of Toilets at Yelahanka constituency Parks in Yalahanka Zone (2nd Call) Others	62,14,622/-	1,24,292/-

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **09.05.2022. (2)** Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **19.05.2022** upto **4:00** pm. **(3)** Technical Bids will be opened in the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone) BBMP, Bengaluru on **21.05.2022** at **11:30** am. (4) Financial Bids will be opened in the Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone) BBMP, Bengaluru on **24.05.2022** at **11:30** am If possible. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yalahanka Zone), BBMP Bengaluru
STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE
CCH-02 HG: 01/06/2022
IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE, AT BANGALORE
G & WC No.32/2022

PETITIONERS		RESPONDENT
1.Miss.JUMANA, Daughter of Mr.C.A.Anis Gowhar, Aged about 16 years. Residing at Zohra Mansion, No.40, Andree Road, Shanthinagar,Bangalore,-560 027 Since Minor represented by her Father and Natural Guardian: Mr.C.A.ANIS GOWHAR	V/S	NIL
2. Mr.C.A.ANIS GOWHAR, Son of Mr Abu Mohammed C.M. Aged about 59 years, Residing at Zohra Mansion, No 40, Andree Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560 027		

PUBLIC NOTICE
Whereas the above named has made petition to this Hon'ble Court under Section 29 of the Guardian and Wards Act 1890, for granting permission to the Second Petitioner to execute a Deed of Conveyance on behalf of the First Petitioner (2nd Petitioner as the father of 1st Petitioner) in respect of below mentioned Schedule Property.
Interested parties are hereby called upon to appear in this Hon'ble court in person or by pleader duly instructed on 01/06/2022 at 11.00 a.m. Inform to show cause against the petitioners failing wherein the appearance will be heard and declared as Ex-parte.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property presently forming portion of amalgamated Municipal No.15 (old No.1/2-15 comprised in Khatha No.47, New No.1/2-15) measuring 2736 Sq.Ft out of 13,740 Sq.Ft, situated at Byrasandra, Bannerghatta Road, Ward No.62, Bangalore and bounded on:
East: Property bearing No.1/1 in Khatha No. 47;
West: Property retained by Donor;
North: Portion out of Khatha No.47, and
South: Road leading to S.R.K.Garden.
Given under my hand and seal of the court, this 5th day of May 2022
By order of the Court Asst. Registrar City Civil Court Bangalore
Date: 08-05-2022

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BBMP
Anganwadi Center, 2nd Main, T.R. Mill Road, Bengaluru-18
No.: EE/CMP/TEND/E-Proc/01/22-23 Date: 06.05.2022
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)
The Executive Engineer (Chamarajpet), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Approxi. Value of Works (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	No. of Works
1	135	20.00 each	50,000/- each	2
2	136	11.92 to 20.00	29,800/- to 50,000/-	3
3	137	20.00 each	50,000/- each	2
4	138	20.00 each	50,000/- each	2
5	139	10.89 to 20.00	27,225/- to 50,000/-	4
6	140	11.92 to 31.78	29,800/- to 63,500/-	4
7	141	11.92 to 20.00	29,800/- to 50,000/-	4
Works reserved for SC (Schedule Cast)				
8	135	20.00	50,000/-	1
9	136	9.52	23,800/-	1
10	137	20.00	50,000/-	1
11	138	20.00	50,000/-	1
12	140	20.00	50,000/-	1
Works reserved for ST (Schedule Tribe)				
13	136	20.00	50,000/-	1
14	139	40.00	80,000/-	1
			Total	28

Calender of events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka from **12.05.2022**. **(2)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **24.05.2022** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(3)** Opening of tender document: **26.05.2022** at **4:15 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chamarajpet Division, BBMP
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

IN BRIEF

On parents' demand, Vlogger's body exhumed

KOZHIKODE

The police on May 7 exhumed the body of vlogger Rifa Mehnu for post-mortem examination from the burial ground of Pavandoor Juma Masjid in Kozhikode district. The decision to carry out post-mortem was taken by the special investigation team following the complaint of her parents that she was suspected to be murdered and no post-mortem exam was conducted in Dubai, where she had died. On March 1, her body was found in her apartment in Dubai.

TTD suspends a few weekly sevas at Tirumala

TIRUMALA

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams will temporarily suspend certain weekly sevas performed in the hill temple of Lord Venkateswara till June 30. Weekly sevas performed on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be suspended.

Float by a 'Water Street', take in lakeside life

Tourism circuit at Maravanthuruth in Kottayam connects 15 canals, 3 rivers

HIRAN UNNIKRISHNAN

KOTTAYAM

The idea of setting sail for a village through its charming canals and rivers sounds unique.

Maravanthuruth, a sleepy lake-side hamlet surrounded by green vegetation and waters in Kottayam district, has taken this one-of-a-kind route to offer visitors an insight into its life and neighbourhoods that have distinctly different characters. For the purpose, it has opened a Water Street, a first-of-its-kind circuit that connects 15 canals and three river stretches.

Elaborating on the initiative, K. Rupesh Kumar, coordinator, Responsible Tourism (RT) Mission Kerala, says the Water Street has been established by restoring the waterbodies that had fallen into disuse following decades of neglect.

"Each of these canals, which range between 2 km and 4 km, will be maintained and protected by 10 Responsible Tourism clusters comprising 40 families. These units, which have been imparted training in various village life and cultural experience products, will operate as enterprises that will benefit from tourist arrivals," he explains.

Tourism clubs have already launched four shikara boats for night safaris and kayaks for paddling through the narrow canals and plans are afoot to launch open rafts made of bamboo and even banana stems. "On the waters, you will see everything, from local people taking bath to fishermen out for their next catch on-board country boats. The life of this village is best experienced aboard a boat," adds Mr. Kumar.

The charming canals that form part of the Water Street in Maravanthuruth, Kottayam. • VISHNU PRATHAP

SPECIAL

The Maravanthuruth grama panchayat, which spent about ₹50 lakh in converting the canals into village arteries, also plans to open agri-tourism streets by focusing on its network of farmlands and art streets by splashing murals across the concrete wall canvases of the village houses.

"The objective is to evolve a sustainable model of tourism development by ensuring participation of the local community," says K.B. Rema, president of the local body.

Kerala Tourism Minister P.A. Mohamed Riyas, who opened the Water Street here at a brief function last week, said an administrative sanction of ₹1 crore would be given for the development of tourism infrastructure in the village.

"I'm sure tourists will now set sail on their way to Maravanthuruth to experience its rich cultural heritage, including the rituals of Attuvela, Sarppam Thullal and Garudan Thookkam. We will be also hosting a Water Street fest in the village later this year," he said.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, coastal Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Heat wave conditions likely in isolated pockets over west Rajasthan, west Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	36.3	25.6
Ahmedabad	–	41.7	28.4
Aizawl	–	29.8	17.1
Allahabad	–	41.3	27.0
Bengaluru	5	33.5	21.2
Bhopal	–	40.8	29.0
Bhubaneswar	–	36.0	24.9
Chandigarh	–	39.8	23.3
Chennai	–	37.4	26.5
Coimbatore	–	35.4	24.0
Dehradun	–	36.2	21.0
Gangtok	0.2	19.8	14.5
Goa	–	34.4	26.7
Guwahati	0.8	33.6	24.4
Hubballi	–	37.0	22.0
Hyderabad	–	39.7	26.8
Imphal	–	29.8	19.8
Jaipur	–	41.5	27.6
Kochi	–	32.2	25.6
Kohima	–	24.0	13.5
Kolkata	–	35.7	27.3

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Kozhikode	0.1	36.1	26.5
Kurnool	–	42.3	28.0
Lucknow	–	37.8	25.3
Madurai	–	39.9	27.8
Mangaluru	0.2	33.1	24.0
Mumbai	–	34.1	25.8
Mysuru	–	34.0	21.0
New Delhi	–	39.4	23.8
Patna	–	37.2	24.6
Port Blair	34	29.4	24.8
Puducherry	22.6	36.4	22.7
Pune	–	40.7	22.7
Raipur	–	40.6	27.6
Ranchi	–	36.4	21.5
Shillong	0.1	24.0	16.1
Shimla	–	28.8	18.4
Srinagar	–	26.8	10.0
Thiruvananthapuram	–	34.4	25.5
Tiruchi	–	38.1	26.6
Vijayawada	12	39.3	29.4
Visakhapatnam	–	36.0	26.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	29	38	36	276	220	Poor
Bengaluru	7	28	25	125	124	Moderate
Chennai	9	16	28	63	121	Moderate
Delhi	36	5	44	300	313	Poor
Hyderabad	4	26	42	107	115	Moderate
Kolkata	26	17	23	81	101	Moderate
Lucknow	10	88	75	234	145	Poor
Mumbai	7	3	18	351	404	Poor
Pune	76	105	117	264	133	Poor
Visakhapatnam	13	51	14	61	105	Moderate

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sonipat, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 399 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Mangaraha, Bihar recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Norms on entering names in rowdy and history registers issued

Court observes there is a need for a comprehensive law to govern the process following apex court's judgments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has laid down guidelines to be followed by the police in the process of rowdy and history sheeting of individuals till the State Government comes out with a comprehensive legislation.

Observing that there was a stark non-existence of adequate procedural safeguards in the process of rowdy/history sheeting in the realm of right to privacy and autonomy of individuals, the court said that there was a need for a comprehensive legislation to govern this process following the apex court's judgments on right to privacy of individuals.

FROM THE COURT

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while disposing of 20 petitions filed by B.S. Prakash and 19 others, whose names were included in the rowdy/history registers in various police stations across the State. The petitioners had questioned the process of inclusion of their names and grievances of non-consideration of their representations for deletion of their names from such registers maintained by the police.

"The implications of name of an individual being entered, and indefinitely continued in the 'Register of Rowdies' are far reaching. There are discernible consequences adverse to the interest of the individual concerned who may not be an accused. Therefore, there has to be a due procedure put in place for making or continuing entries in the rowdy register/history sheets," the court observed.

It also said that there had to be a proper Grievance Redressal Mechanism against a wrongful registration of names & their continuation, regardless of the request of the aggrieved for deletion.

Sealed cover

All the process of entering name of an individual into such registers should be done in a sealed cover. This information should not be provided to anyone, except the particular individual concerned, and no RTI application should be entertained in this regard.

The court said that before entering the name of an individual in the Register of Rowdies, the jurisdictional police shall collect and collate the material information concerning him and frame the proposal for registration on that basis.

A brief proposal notice should be sent to the individual concerned in a sealed cover with an option to submit his representation within two weeks as to why his name should not be registered as a rowdy. However, the court said there was no need to afford a personal hearing. In exceptional cases, the court clarified that the notice may be dispensed with for reasons to be recorded in the Register of Rowdies.

Review

The jurisdictional police *suo motu* should compulsorily, once in two years undertake a periodic review of entries in the Register of Rowdies.

Stating that it would be open for individuals concerned to give representation for deletion of their names from the register, the court said such representations had to be decided within 30 days.

Persons aggrieved by rejection of their representation can approach the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) within 30 days and the PCA had to dispose of such representations within 60 days.

The court also made it clear that the violation of the guidelines would constitute a major misconduct and an adverse entry on proof thereof should be made by disciplinary authority in the service register of erring officials with due process of law.

Tamil Nadu custodial death: CB-CID arrests five policemen, one Home Guard

S. VIJAY KUMAR

CHENNAI

The Crime Branch-CID of the Tamil Nadu police on Saturday arrested five policemen and one Home Guard for their involvement in the death of Vignesh in custody here on April 19, police sources said.

Acting on the instructions of Director-General of Police (CB-CID) M. Shakeel Akhter, a special team interrogated the police personnel who were on duty on April 18 and 19 and took them into custody, sources said.

During the investigation and enquiries made, the role of the five policemen and one Home Guard was established. Their names were given as constable Paunraj, head constable Munaf, special sub-inspector Kumar, Home Guard Deepak, Armed Reserve Police constables Jagajeevan and Chandra Kumar. The accused were produced in a city court for remand, the sources said.

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Executive Engineer

Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division,

D C Compound Premises, R T O Road, Shivamogga

Ph : 08182-248044 email : eesmgrdws@gmail.com

Short-term Tender Notification (Through e-procurement)

No.ಕಾಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀನೈ/ವಿ/ಶಿ.ಮೊ-02/JJM/ISRA/Tender :2021-22/236

Date: 05.05.2022

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Standard Tender Document procedure, competitive tenders are invited through KC-8 from Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga from the eligible firms (NGO) registered in the e-procurement portal of Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation JJM/ISRA in 7 taluks coming under the District. More details can be had from the e-procurement portal : **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** If any one of the following days happens to be a holiday, the next working day will be considered.

(1) Pre-bid meeting date : **11.05.2022 at 11.30 AM. Office of the Executive Engineer, RWS&S Division, Shivamogga RTO Road, DC Office Compound, Shivamogga.** (2) Last date for submission of filled tenders through online (e-procurement) : **13.05.2022 upto 5.30 P M.** (3) Date of opening of technical bid : **15.05.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (4) Date of opening of financial bid : **18.05.2022 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Period : **12 months.**

Sl No : 1. Details of services : **Selection and Empanelment of Implementation Support Agencies (NGOs/VOs/ SHGs) for providing services related to IEC & HRD activities under JalJeevan Mission (JJM) in rural areas under Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department For the 1st Year (INDENT NO.JJM/ISRA/SMGDVN 2021-22/CALL-2)** Amount put to tender (Rs in lakhs) : 171.36 EMD amount (in Rs) : 257048.00 Period : **12 months.** Period Eligibility of contractors : **NGOs/VOs/ SHGs.**

Note:- Initially, contract shall for a period of One Year, it will be renewed / extended Yearly up to Maximum period for 2 years from the initial contract data subject to Satisfactory performance of the ISA.

The ceiling cost of the consultancy is as shown in the Summary of Costs. Payments will be made as per stipulations of the Special Conditions of Contract. The break-up of cost for each item is to facilitate assessment of reasonableness of costs and conducting negotiations in accordance with clause 6 of the Information to Consultants

sd/- Executive Engineer,

Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

DIPR/SMG/No.21-05 zenkar/2022-23

Government of Karnataka

BELAGAVI INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES,

Dr.B.R.Amedkar Road, Belagavi– 590 001

(Autonomous Medical Institution)

(Hospital) Phone No: 0831-2420320 (College) Phone No: 0831-2421464.

Website: WWW.bimsbelgaum.org E.Mail: belgaum.bims@gmail.com

No. BIMS/MEW/TEND/CR-05/2022-23 **DATED:07-05-2022**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Director, Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi hereby invites short term tenders under e-tendering system for HOSPITAL EQUIPMENTS & RO Plants OF B.I.M.S BELAGAVI as per K.T.P.P. Act 1999 & Rules 2000 there under:

Sl. No.	Tender Notification	Description of Tender	Tender Value (Approximate) (Rs. In Lakhs)	Downloading of Tender Document
1	No.BIMS/MEW/TEND/ CR-05/2022-23, D: 07-05-2022	HOSPITAL EQUIPMENTS & RO Plants OF B.I.M.S BELAGAVI	Rs. 85=00 Lakhs	07/05/2022

The Tenderers Registered under e-procurement Portal can refer Government of Karnataka e Portal website https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in to get detailed information about the tender & details of EMD & Security Deposit or can contact the Director BIMS Belagavi in the working hours to get the information.

Tender inviting authority, Tender Accepting Authority has got powers to cancel any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Sd/-Chief Administrative Officer,

Belagavi Institute of Medical Sciences, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-197/MCA/2022-23

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

Hutti-584 115, Dist: Raichur, State: Karnataka, Ph: 08537-275463/276339/275054.

e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.co.in

TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 02/22-23 Date: 08.05.2022

(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

Tenders are invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers, as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Qty.	Approx. Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD in Rs.
1	Supply of OEM spares for jack hammer. **HGML/2021-22/IND3304**	As per list	12.53	31,500/-
2	Supply, manufacturing, erection and testing, commissioning of MS ERW pipe line for slurry transportation. **HGML/2022-23/WS/WORK_INDENT371**	—-	26.63	53,000/-
3	Supply of manila ropes of different size. **HGML/2022-23/IND3314**	As per list	6.54	16,500/-
4	Supply of Electrical vehicle (EV) cars. **HGML/2022-23/IND3315**	—-	67.50	1,35,000/-
5	Supply of various size of G I pipe fittings. **HGML/2022-23/IND3316**	As per list	17.26	43,000/-
6	Design, supply & installation of industrial washing machine. **HGML/2021-22/IND3306**	2 Nos.	47.09	94,000/-

Calendar of events: **(1)** Last date for receipt of tender: **23.05.2022 at 4.00 p.m.** **(2)** Opening of Technical Bid on: **26.05.2022 at 10.00 a.m.** For further details interested bidders are advised to log on to website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- Dy. General Manager (Materials)

"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

(Public Works Department)

Executive Engineer,

Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura.

Invitation for Short-Term Tender (I.F.T.) No.: 04/2022-23 Date: 04.05.2022

(For Road Works – As per Standard Bidding Document K.W. – 3 in two cover system)

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the Undersigned invites Tenders in two cover system through e-procurement portal from eligible Contractors registered in PWD for works. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **10.05.2022 to 19.05.2022 up to 4.00 pm.** **(1)** Last date for objections-doubts and clarifications: **10.05.2022 (at 3.00 pm during office hours). (2)** Last date for submission of filled tenders: **19.05.2022 (up to 4.00 pm). (3)** Date of opening Technical Bid: **21.05.2022 at 11.00 am. (4)** Date of opening Financial Bid after approval of Technical Bid: **25.05.2022 at 11.00 am.** For more information visit website **www.kpwd.gov.in** or contact this office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D.

Chikkaballapura Division, Chikkaballapura

ವಾಇಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಟೆ.ಸಂ.55/ಎ.ಓ.ಎ/2022-23

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

IN THE COURT OF THE VII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE

P & S.C. No. 137 OF 2022 (CCH-19)

Venkateshachar .R Katti, Son of Rajendrachar Katti, Aged 43 years and Residing At Door No. 150, 10th Main, Banashankari 1st Stage, 1st Block, Srinagar, Bengaluru - 560 050. ...**Petitioner**

And: Nil ...**Respondents**

PUBLIC NOTICE

1. Notice is hereby given that a petition has been made to this Court under Part III Chapter IV Under Section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Probate of the last Will Dtd: 22.12.2020 of the deceased C. Ananda Rao son of late C. Raghavendra Rao, in respect of his residential property bearing New No.7 which was originally known as No.358/A, 8th Cross, Sunkenahalli adjudged sites, now BBMP PID No. 52-27-7 situate on 08th Main Road, Channasandrakanavi Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019, more fully described in the Schedule hereunder. Be it known that no Caveat has been entered and the said petition has been posted for hearing **on 26.05.2022 (CCH-19) at 11.00 AM** Any person/s claiming to have interest may appear and participate before the Hon'ble Court on the appointed date, prior to the grant of Probate.

SCHEDULE

All that part and parcel of residential property bearing New No.7 which was originally known as No.358/A, 8th Cross, Sunkenahalli adjudged sites, now BBMP PID No.52-27-7 situate on 08th Main Road, Channasandrakanavi Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bangalore - 560 019, measuring:

East to West : 30'00 and North to South : 30'00.

and bounded on:

By East : Property No. 358 (old) - 52-27-8

By West : Property No. 358/B (old) - 52-27-6

By North : Property No. 351 - 52-26-4

By South : Road.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 21.03.2022.

By Order of the Court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Petitioner

Sri T. Rukmangadachar, Advocate

No. 113/3, Ground Floor, Basavangudi, Bangalore - 560 004. Ph : 9620255406

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No: BBMP/SADH/YNK/TENDER/02/2022-23 Date: 07.05.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(Two Cover System) (2nd Call)

(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (Yelahanka Zone) BBMP, Bengaluru (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders in accordance with KTPP Rues 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Government Departments of Karnataka State for housekeeping services.

Sl. No.	Name of work	Approx. value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Maintenance of Toilets at Byatarayana pura constituency Parks in Yelahanka Zone (2nd Call).	51,91,721/-	1,03,834/-

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement portal of GOK from **09-05-2022 onwards.** 2)Tenders must be submitted online through e-Procurement portal on or before: **19-05-2022 upto 4:00 p.m.** 3) Technical bids will be opened on: **21-05-2022 at 11:30 a.m.** 4) Financial bids will be opened on: **24-05-2022 at 11:30 a.m.**, if possible.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or from the e-Procurement portal website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Asst. Director of Horticulture, Yelahanka Zone, BBMP

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19. NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.

Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Our Client - **Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** is the absolute owner of the property bearing Site No.874/1 (Old No. 872), situated in Koramangala III Block, Bangalore ("**Property**"), having purchased the same from Mr. K. R Kumar Reddy, under the Sale Deed dated 11.07.1986, registered as Document No. 1576 of 1987 - 88, in Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk, measuring East to West 90 Feet and North to South 120 Feet. She had availed a loan for purchasing the said property from HDFC Bank Limited and as per the procedure of the Bank, the following originals documents pertaining to the property were deposited with the Bank:

1) Sale Deed dated 11.07.1986 registered as Document No. 1576 of 1987 – 88, in Book-I, executed between Mr. K.R Kumar Reddy and Ms. Kiran Mazumdar Shaw in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk;
2) Encumbrance Certificate for a period of 30 years;
3) Khata Certificate;
4) Prior title deeds;
5) Tax paid receipts;
6) Licence for construction;
7) Life insurance policy for an amount of Rs.1,00,000/- ;
8) Address of LIC office where the policy/s is/are being serviced at present;
9) Last premium paid receipt/s pertain to the LIC policy;

Although the loan availed had been repaid by Our Client in full, the aforesaid original documents are not returned by the HDFC Bank Limited. It has come to the knowledge of Our Client that the said original documents have been misplaced/lost by HDFC Bank Limited. Our Client has also lodged a complaint before the Jurisdictional Koramangala Police Station reporting loss of aforesaid documents vide Lost Report No. 0210726/2022. We request any person who finds the aforesaid original documents pertaining to the Property, to hand over the same to us at the address mentioned below:

Mr. Vivek B Ramakrishna, Advocate, 2nd Floor, Shivashankar Plaza, No. 19, Lalbagh road, Richmond Circle, Bangalore – 560 027; Ph. No.: +9180 41680004

FROM PAGE ONE

UNSC jointly backs peace bid in Ukraine

The Security Council requested the Secretary-General to brief the Security Council in due course after the adoption of the statement, which was initiated by Norway and Mexico.

At a separate Security Council event hosted by Russia, India stressed on the path of diplomacy and said dialogue should be the only viable option for peace in Ukraine. "We believe no solution can be arrived at by shedding blood and at the cost of innocent lives. We have emphasised right from the beginning of the conflict that the path of diplomacy and dialogue should be the only viable option," Counsellor in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Pratik Mathur said. He stressed that India strongly condemned the killing of civilians in Bucha and supported the call for an independent investigation. India also supports all efforts to alleviate the suffering of the people of Ukraine. "We believe that there will be no winning side in this conflict and while everyone impacted by it will continue to suffer, diplomacy will be a lasting casualty," he said.

At the UNSC, Mexico's Permanent Representative Juan Ramon de la Fuente Ramirez said the adoption of the Presidential Statement "shows that the Security Council is united in supporting the UN and the Secretary-General in finding a diplomatic solution." He added that both Mexico and Norway continue to call for an immediate cessation of hostilities.

In his briefing to the Council on Thursday, Mr. Guterres said the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross are leading a humanitarian operation that is greatly complex both politically and in terms of security.

Replace biased official, say Gyanvapi caretakers

This came a day after a team of lawyers and opposing legal parties led by court-appointed advocate commissioner Ajay Kumar Mishra initiated-began a videographic inspection of the Maa Shringar Gauri site located behind the western wall of the Gyanvapi mosque in the Gyanvapi Masjid-Kashi Vishwanath temple complex.

In an application submitted in the court of the civil judge, senior division, Varanasi, the caretakers of the mosque alleged that Mr. Mishra was acting in a "biased manner" and appeared hell-bent on the inspection and videography of those areas on the premises they had objected to in writing on May 6, before the process began.

"He is working more like a party on the side of the plaintiffs," Rayeed Ahmad, one of the lawyers of the mosque committee, said.

Civil judge, senior division, Ravi Kumar Diwakar had appointed the court commissioner after five women plaintiffs filed a suit in April 2021 declaring that they were entitled to have daily *darshan*, *pooja* and perform all the rituals of Maa Shringar Gauri, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman and other "visible and invisible deities within old temple complex" situated at settlement Plot no. 9130 in the area of ward and police station Dashwamedh.

The mosque committee said they had requested the advocate commissioner to identify Plot no. 9130 before starting the inspection work, but that he did not pay heed to it and went on with the process without identification of the disputed property.

Abhay Nath Yadav, another lawyer for the mosque committee, said the plaintiffs did not provide any description of the plot in the suit.

The lawyer alleged that the advocate commissioner went beyond the court order of videography and started measuring with fingers some stones of a *chabutra*-type structure near the barricade outside the western wall of the mosque. "He also started scraping the earth between the stones. We objected. One cannot make any amendment to or change the position of any object but only videograph," Mr. Yadav told *The Hindu*. The commissioner also wanted the locks of the mosque barricades to be opened for videography but the mosque committee objected to it, Mr. Yadav said.

Sedition law need not be revisited: govt.

The government said the judgment settled the question of law and applicability of Section 124A and needed no further reference to a larger Bench now.

The Centre's note, settled by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and drafted by the Centre's panel counsel Kanu Agrawal, comes amid debate before a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana on whether the sedition law in the background of what is said in the *Kedar Nath* verdict needs to be referred to a five- or seven-judge Bench for a re-look.

A clutch of petitions by senior journalists and prominent bodies and personalities, represented by senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Vipin Nair, has challenged the legality of the colonial law. They have argued that the law of sedition is being rampantly misused by the government to curb fundamental rights of life, dignity, personal liberty, and the freedoms to protest and dissent.

Mr. Sibal has argued that there has been a "sea change" in the law post the 1962 case law. He had reminded in court that "the British have left the country. We are a democracy now and masters of our own fate. We have a right to protest".

Mr. Sibal had said the *Kedar Nath* judgment had only covered how sedition affected free speech and expression enshrined in Article 19(1)(a) and did not touch upon how the provision would snuff out the right to life (Article 21) and right to equal treatment (Article 14).

But the government countered that a Constitution Bench considers a law, and in this case Section 124A, from all perspectives, including its impact on Articles 14, 19 and 21.

"Merely because Article 14 and 21 are not mentioned, would not undermine its final judicial conclusion. The five-judge Bench read down Section 124A only to bring it in conformity with Article 14, 19 and 21 of the Constitution. No reference, therefore, would be necessary nor can the three-judge Bench once again examine the constitutional validity of the very same provision," the government submissions in court argued.

The government said the ratio and logic of the *Kedar Nath* judgment was tested and applied successfully in several cases, including in the recent *Vinod Dua* case, in which the senior journalist was booked for sedition for his social media activity.

The government said that in case the three-judge Bench wants to reconsider the ratio of the *Kedar Nath* judgment, it would be "absolutely necessary" for it to "first to record its satisfaction that the ratio in *Kedar Nath* Singh is so patently wrong that it needs reconsideration by a larger Bench".

NIA initiates probe into malware attack

Fake Facebook profile used to spy on several defence personnel; gadgets were infected using malware

DEVESH K. PANDEY
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has launched a probe into the use of a fake Facebook profile through which several defence personnel were contacted and their communication devices accessed using malware to gather security sensitive information.

The agency suspects that the account was being operated from Pakistan.

The Counter Intelligence Cell in Vijayawada first detected the spying operation in 2020, following which it registered a case under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, Official Secrets Act, Information Technology Act and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

As alleged, information related to national security was stolen by remotely injecting a concealed malware into the electronic devices, including mobile phones and computers, of the defence personnel and some others working in defence establishments through the Facebook account opened in the name of "Shanti Patel".

Those operating the account befriended the personnel concerned via private messenger chats on the Internet.

The targeted individuals' gadgets were infected using the malware to "gain unauthorised access to the restricted data of the computer resources and to steal sensitive information with an intention to commit terrorist act and endanger the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India...".

NIA building in New Delhi.

Concealed malware

According to the First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Counter Intelligence Cell, the suspects spread the malware by sending to the personnel a folder containing photographs of women. The *prima facie* evidence indicated that the malware had originated from somewhere in Islamabad.

In a similar case reported in March 2021, the police arrested an Army jawan in Rajasthan. The accused was posted in Sikkim.

On October 31, 2020, following a tip-off from the Military Intelligence, the Rajasthan police nabbed one Ramniwas Gaura, a civilian working with a Military Engineer Services (MES) unit.

The accused had been contacted using a Facebook profile by someone using pseudonyms Ekta and Jasmeet Kour. They then remained in touch on WhatsApp.

'Honeytrap'

In another case reported in September 2020, an MES employee named Mahesh was arrested in Rewari after he was "honey-trapped" using a Facebook account.

"In the past few years, multiple instances of attempts to trap defence and security personnel via social media platforms have been detected. The handlers usually send money to the information providers through the *hawala* channel. Several preventive measures have been taken by the agencies concerned," an official said.

Delimitation panel report biased: Cong.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR

Congress leader Rajni Patil, who is the party's Kashmir in-charge, on Saturday termed the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission's final draft as "biased and politically motivated".

"It's aimed to benefit a particular political party," Ms. Patil, who is touring the Valley, said.

She said the people of Jammu and Kashmir have vehemently opposed the delimitation report.

"The commission has not taken care of topography, connectivity, population and other parameters before concluding the final report," she alleged.

Women's Press Corps faces eviction

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union government recently extended the allotment of government bungalows for the offices of the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) and the Foreign Correspondents Club for three months and asked to vacate the premises by July 31.

The letter was issued on May 4.

The letter sent to the IWPC by the Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry's Directorate of Estates said the competent authority had given in-principle approval for the IWPC to retain 5 Windsor Place situated on Ashoka Road in New Delhi till July 31 on prevailing terms and conditions. It added that the IWPC should arrange suitable accommodation and plan to vacate the bungalow on or before July 31.

Smoke cover

Strenuous effort: Firefighters attempt to douse a fire at the LIC building in the Santacruz area of Mumbai on Saturday morning. No casualties have been reported. The cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained. •PTI

BJP grew because of OBCs: Fadnavis

STAFF REPORTER
MUMBAI

Irrespective of whether political reservation for the OBCs (Other Backward Class) in civic bodies in remained or not, the BJP would give 27% of the seats to the community, senior party leader and former Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said.

"The OBCs are the DNA of the BJP. Ours is a party that has grown because of the OBCs," Mr. Fadnavis said at a programme organised by the OBC cell of the Maharashtra BJP.

"Ideally, the Prime Minister has no caste, but when somebody questions about the caste, it has to be spoken aloud that the BJP's Prime Minister, who leads not only the country but also the world, is an OBC. Today, the country's Cabinet has the highest number of OBC Ministers," he said.

CJI condemns violence, false cases against doctors in India

He seeks proactive steps to stop violence against them

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana on Saturday expressed deep concern over the rising number of attacks faced by doctors and medical professionals in the line of duty.

"I am extremely saddened to witness rising violence against doctors. Several false cases are being lodged against upright and hard-working doctors. They need a better and more secure working environment," Chief Justice Ramana said at a book launch in the national capital.

Justice N.V. Ramana

The CJI said pro-active measures to protect doctors from violence while doing their duty was the need of the hour.

The CJI was releasing a comprehensive guide titled 'Atlas of Breast Elastography and Ultrasound Guided Fine Needle Cytology' co-authored by Dr. Colonel C.S. Pant and Dr. Vaneeta Kapur.

The CJI had last year condemned the brutal attacks on doctors, who had stood like a rock between the COVID-19 virus and thousands of emotionally and physically vulnerable patients confined to isolation in hospital wards during the pandemic.

The Chief Justice had asked why medical professionals were at the "receiving end for someone else's failure". He added that government not giving priority to medical sector is an issue of immediate concern.

Policeman shot by militants in Srinagar, dies of injuries

Distraught kin of Ghulam Hassan Dar seeks end to attacks

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

A policeman was shot in a militant attack in Srinagar on Saturday. He later died of injuries.

His distraught family urged militants to put an end to the "killing of those who have joined the force to earn their livelihood and raise families".

The policeman, identified as Ghulam Hassan Dar from the Danwar area of Eidgah here, came under attack from militants around 8 a.m. Officials said militants fired upon the policeman in civies, when he was heading for office on his two-wheeler, near the Aiwa Bridge along Dr. Ali Jan Road. The policeman, who worked as a driver in the J&K police, suffered injuries in the upper body and was shifted to a nearby hospital in "a critical condition".

Blood stains being washed off after a policeman was shot. •NISSAR AHMAD

His elder brother said Mr. Dar never felt any threat since he had never committed any atrocity. "He was working as a driver who never picked up a gun. I want justice. I am sharing my mobile number. Let the attackers call me and let me know of the crime committed by my brother. Those who think such killings will get *azadi*, let them kill all of us then," he said. Personnel of the J&K police are witnessing frequent targeted attacks in Kashmir. Both on-duty and off-duty personnel, many of whom were heading for mosques or resting at home, were killed by militants in the past one year.

CBI searches premises of AAP MLA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday conducted searches at premises of a private firm in Malerkotla linked to Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA from Punjab Jaswant Singh Gajjan Majra in connection with an alleged ₹40 crore bank fraud case.

Mr. Jaswant Singh is the AAP legislator from Amargarh constituency and is one of the accused in the alleged bank fraud case, who was the then director and guarantor in the private firm.

The CBI statement said that close to ₹16.57 lakhs cash, around 88 foreign currency notes, some property documents, several bank accounts and other incriminating documents were recovered during searches.

'Future wars will employ indigenous weapons'

Vice Chief of the Army Staff says the force is simplifying its requirements for the domestic industry

DINAKAR PERI
UDHAMPUR

"We will not ask you for the moon," Vice Chief of the Army Staff Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju told industry on Saturday while stating that henceforth almost all Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) issued by the Army for procurement of new systems and equipment would be issued only to indigenous defence manufacturers.

Most of the AoNs would be given to Indian industry, at least 90% and above, he said. They were also working on simplifying the service requirements issued for equipment so that industry could meet the specifications.

This is in line with the recent amendment that Services have to make all procurements from domestic industry and go for direct imports only as an exception.

Lt. Gen. B.S. Raju at the North Tech Symposium.

"We will not ask you for the moon. The Preliminary Service Quality Requirements (PSQR) that we are going to give are going to be reasonable so that you are able to produce. If your equipment can meet 80% of our aspirations, then we will go ahead and issue orders...," Lt. Gen. Raju said addressing the exhibition at the North Tech Symposium organised by the Army's Northern Command in Udhampur, where over 160 Indian companies showcased their products.

The message from the top was very clear, to fight future wars with indigenous equipment, he observed, talking of *Aatmanirbharta* in defence.

DAP 2020

On the procurement process and the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020, he said there was need to further simplify the procedures so that they were more agile and flexible to meet the aspirations of the troops, industry and the users.

In the past two years, he noted, the Army had entered into contracts worth ₹40,000 crore with the Indian industry.

On the immediate requirements the Northern Command is looking for, its Commanding-in-Chief, Lt. Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, said the two major criteria were what was being importing from outside and where the enemy had a technology that needed to be countered.

A key result area was extreme cold climate clothing and special clothing and mountaineering equipment (SCME) for high-altitude and super high-altitude glacier. Second, surveillance and counter-surveillance like drones and counter-drones, where the technologies are evolving every day.

Obsolete tech

"Whatever we are doing, the adversary is able to find a counter to it and we have to again look for a counter," Lt. Gen. Dwivedi noted.

These technologies were being developed across the world and by the time they came here, they were very late, and even obsolete.

"Therefore, it is imperative for us to develop these technologies in India, so that we are also able to evolve and graduate to a higher level, in conjunction with what the adversaries are doing, or even better than that," he said.

In the past two years, the Army has signed a series of contracts with Indian start-ups for small drones for surveillance and load carrying.

Abhimanyu Arora, executive assistant (tech) to CEO of Noida-based start-up Raphe mPhibr Pvt. Ltd., which showcased its products, said the firm got two separate orders from the Army, 48 mR-20 logistics drones, which could have a cargo of up to 20 kg in high-altitude areas for the infantry, and 100 hexacopter drones for the Armoured Corps.

Congress slams govt. for price hike

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Narendra Modi government has withdrawn all safety nets that the Congress had put in place to protect the common man, former Congress president Rahul Gandhi said, reacting to the further hike in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinders for domestic use.

Mr. Gandhi, in a post on Facebook, stated that during the UPA government, the price of an LPG cylinder was ₹414, as the government extended a subsidy of ₹827 a cylinder. That subsidy had been withdrawn by the BJP-led government. "The Modi government has removed all safety nets that Congress had put in place to protect the common man. Today, millions of Indian households are waging a difficult battle against extreme inflation, unemployment, and poor governance, The Congress party would have never let this happen. We have and always will support families in need," he said.

In a press conference, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera described the hike as an attack on every single household. He said that the Congress, till it was in power, ensured that the burden of high prices did not fall on the middle-class or the poor. In 2012-13, the subsidy bill on LPG was ₹39,558 crore, and in the last financial year of the UPA government in 2013-14, the subsidy on LPG went up to ₹46,458 crore.

The hike comes when the country is going through a disastrous economic phase, he added.

CPI general secretary D. Raja said the government seemed to have given a free-hand to the oil marketing companies who were hiking prices at their whims and fancies. "The government is callous and insensitive towards the sufferings of the common people," he added.

Domestic LPG cylinder price hiked by ₹50

It is the second such revision in under two months

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD

Long haul: The latest hike has come at a time when household budgets are already under strain. • SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Households will now have to spend more on liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), as national oil marketing companies on May 7 increased the price of the 14.2-kg cylinder by ₹50.

The second such revision in under two months, the increase pushes up the price of a domestic cylinder of cooking gas to more than ₹1,000 in Chennai and Kolkata, while taking it to ₹999.50 in Delhi and Mumbai.

Coming at a time when household budgets are already strained by the rising prices of daily-use items from milk to edible oil as well as the increased spending on commutes due to high petrol and diesel prices, the LPG price increase is bound to add to the stress for consumers.

Sources in the LPG trade had been hinting at an impending increase in the price of domestic LPG amid a firming up of crude oil prices since the Russia-Ukraine war began.

Saturday's revision by Indian Oil Corporation, BPCL and HPCL, which command a lion's share of the domestic LPG market in India, follows a more than ₹100 increase in the commercial 19-kg cylinder price on May 1.

SC to have full strength of 34 judges

Two new judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, says Law Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala have been appointed judges of the Supreme Court, Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Saturday.

Justice Pardiwala will also be in line to become the Chief Justice of India and will have a tenure of about two years and three months as the top judge of the country.

The Law Minister shared the notification of the Department of Justice on his official Twitter handle.

Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia

Justice Jamshed Burjor

Full sanctioned strength

The Supreme Court will have its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges until the retirement of Justice Vineet Saran on May 10.

Justice Dhulia will be the second judge to be elevated from the Uttarakhand High Court.

The grandson of a freedom fighter who took part in the Quit India Movement, Justice Dhulia, who hails from Madanpur, a remote village in Pauri Garhwal district, was elevated as a judge of the High Court in November 2008. He later became the Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court on January 10, 2021.

Justice Pardiwala will be the fourth Parsi to be elevated to the Bench of the Supreme Court.

A fourth generation legal professional in his family, his father, Burjor Cawasji Pardiwala, had briefly served as the Speaker of the Seventh Legislative Assembly of Gujarat, besides being a lawyer.

After Justice S. Abdul Nazeer's elevation to the Supreme Court in February 2017, his appointment is the first from the minority community in the past five years.

Consensus reached

Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana has been able to reach a consensus with his Collegium members, Justices U.U. Lalit, A.M. Khanwilkar, D.Y. Chandrachud, and L. Nageswara Rao, to unanimously recommend 11 names so far to the top court in August 2021.

The Collegium's success had seen a record nine judges, including three women, sworn in as Supreme Court Justices on August 31. One of the judges, Justice B.V. Nagarathna, is in line to be the first woman CJI.

HC gives Bagga protection from arrest

Local court in Punjab had issued non-bailable warrant

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHANDIGARH

Brief respite: BJP leader Tajinder Bagga at his residence after being released by the police on Saturday. • PTI

In an urgent hearing late on Saturday night, the Punjab and Haryana High Court granted Delhi BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga protection from arrest in a case filed against him by the Punjab Police for allegedly making inflammatory remarks.

In fast-paced developments a day after he was taken into custody by a Punjab police team only to be set free by the police of Haryana and Delhi in a highway drama, Mr. Bagga approached the High Court hours after a local court in Punjab had issued a non-bailable arrest warrant.

Justice Anoop Chitkara heard the case at his residence at midnight and directed that no coercive steps be taken against Mr. Bagga till the next date of hearing.

"The High Court has granted a stay on the arrest. The court in its direction said that no coercive step should be taken against Mr. Bagga in connection with the case," Chettan Mittal, Mr. Bagga's counsel, told *The Hindu*.

Hearing on May 10

"The matter will come up for hearing on May 10," he added. Earlier in the day, the court of the Judicial Magistrate at Mohali in Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar district had issued an arrest warrant and directed the police to produce Mr. Bagga before the court.

The local court had fixed the next hearing on the matter for May 23.

The warrant was issued in the case relating to FIR number 18/2022 registered at the State cybercrime wing.

The FIR was registered against Mr. Bagga on April 1, 2022, under Sections 153A, 505, 505(2), 506 of the Indian Penal Code, accusing him of causing instigation, incitement and criminal intimidation to cause violence, use of force, and imminent hurt in an orchestrated manner by making provocative, false and communal inflammatory statements through interview to media and Twitter.

Delhi police to provide security to BJP leader

NEW DELHI

In the wake of BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga expressing fear about his safety, the Delhi Police on Saturday said it will make necessary security arrangements for him. The Delhi Police on Friday registered a case of kidnapping based on a complaint by Mr. Bagga's father, Pritpal Singh Bagga, that "some people" came over to his house at around 8 a.m. and took away his son. PTI

Minorities panel sends notice to police

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Minorities on Saturday took *suo motu* cognisance of media reports that BJP leader Tajinder Singh Bagga was not allowed to wear his turban while he was in the custody of the Punjab Police for a few hours on Friday.

In a letter to Punjab Chief Secretary Anirudh Tiwari, the commission has asked for a report to be filed within a week.

It has noted that if Mr. Bagga was indeed not allowed to wear a turban, then the Punjab Police has violated the religious rights of Mr. Bagga.

Mr. Bagga's mother had alleged that the the police team that took him from his residence in Delhi on Friday did not let him wear his turban and had dragged him outside the house.

'Police following political cues will harm federalism'

Chidambaram warns of breakdown

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

P. Chidambaram

The police serving their respective political masters will lead to the ultimate breakdown of federalism, former Union Home Minister P. Chidambaram said on Saturday, a day after conflict between the police forces of Punjab, Delhi and Haryana over the arrest of BJP leader Tajinder Pal Singh Bagga.

Mr. Chidambaram said that this confrontation was waiting to happen, since the police in each State were following political cues.

The arrest of Gujarat MLA Jignesh Mevani in Assam for a tweet he posted from his home State gave a clue to what lay ahead, he said.

"This was bound to happen someday. Punjab, Delhi, and Haryana police confrontation is an example of what lies in store in the future. Police serving their respective political masters will lead to the ultimate breakdown of federalism that is already in peril," Mr. Chidambaram tweeted.

The former Home Minister argued that the "autonomy" of a State police force must stop at the border of another State and the police of the first State must take the consent of the other State. "Otherwise, federalism will be dead and buried," he added in his social media post.

OFFICE OF THE ROURKELA MUNICPAL CORPORATION
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA, ODISHA - 769012
E-mail ID: rourkelamunicipality@gmail.com

RFP No. 4956 Date. 05/05/22

NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF PORTABLE CABINS FOR CONTAINER LIBRARY AT DIFFERENT LOCATIONS OF ROURKELA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION AREA

Rourkela Municpal Corporation (RMC) invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from the reputed Intending Agencies/Suppliers/Bidders for Supply and Installation of 04 Nos. of Portable Cabins for Container Library at Different Locations of Rourkela Municipal Corporation area.

The RFP is to be submitted in closed covers addressed to the Commissioner, Rourkela Municipal Corporation, Uditnagar, Rourkela, Dist.-Sundargarh (Odisha), PIN-769012 on or before 11.00 AM 25.05.2022 through Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier/ or by Hand.

The complete RFP document can be downloaded from the RMC website (www.rmc.nic.in) from 07.05.2022 onwards. Authority reserves the right to reject any or all the RFP without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Commissioner
Rourkela Municipal Corporation

C-225 OIPR-13131/11/0018/2223

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
By E_Mail/e-Despatch E_Mail ID : serw_balasore@yahoo.in Ph-No 06782/260318 Balia, Balasore
"e" Procurement Notice for Bridge Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Bridge N.C.B. No. 330

Letter No. 1328 /WE Date 02.05.2022

1. Name of the work :- Bridge works
2. Total No. of work :- 1 No. (One)
3. Estimated Cost :- Rs. 369.32 lakhs (Approximately)
4. Eligible Class of Contractor : - "A" Class & "Special" Class (of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities (as per annexure).
5. Period of Completion :- 12 (Twelve) Calendar months for the work.
6. Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E. R.W. Circle, Balasore	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	NCB No:- 330	09.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M	24.05.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.	23.05.2022 up to 5.00 P.M.	25.05.2022 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

S/d Er.S. K.Mishra
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Balasore

D-176 OIPR-25105/11/0008/2223

INSTITUTE ON MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION (IMAGE)
(AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA)
Siripur, BHUBANESWAR-751003, Odisha
Ph:- (0674) 2974145, E-mail: imagebbsr1999@gmail.com

No. 1977/IMAGE, Dated: 06.05.2022

Clarification on Pre-bid Queries

With reference to RFP Notice No.1749 dt. 20.04.2022, for Selection of Agency for Engagement of Extension Functionaries at Blocks & Districts and setting up of PMU in Image under Extension Reforms (ATMA) Scheme

The details of clarification relating to the queries of the interested bidders have been discussed in the Pre-bid meeting held on dt.04.05.2022 and necessary changes made in the RFP documents can be downloaded from the website www.agriodisha.nic.in / www.odisha.gov.in from dt. 07.05.2022. Other Terms & Conditions as mentioned in the RFP docuemnts are remain unchanged.

DIRECTOR, IMAGE

CAD-449 OIPR-01408/11/0004/2223

URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST ALWAR
क्रमांक-/सीवा/2022/1646-55/22 दिनांक :- 29/04/2022

Notice Inviting Bid-02/2022-23

Bids for Electric works invited from interested bidders upto 06.05.2022 (For item no-5 upto 25.05.2022) 4.00 PM. Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and www.uitalwar.in

UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00009	UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00012
UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00010	UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00013
UBN No.	UAL2223WSOB00011		

Raj.Samvad/C/1514/2022-23 Executive Engineer, UIT, Alwar

MALABAR CEMENTS LIMITED
(A Government of Kerala Undertaking) An ISO 9001 :2015, 14001:2015 Company
Walayar Post, Palakkad-678624-Kerala
Email : materials@malabarcements.com/ bulkmd@malabarcements.com

TENDER NOTICE

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in for Online Submission of Bids for:
Pre-monsoon preparations- Cutting and Clearing of drains at Plant. Supply of 8000 MT Imported Coal RB1 type for Malabar Cements Ltd. Walayar basis. Supply of Grease for Girth Gear. Supply of HA – 70 Refractory Bricks for Rotary Kiln. Supply of 1000 MM Conveyor Belt. Supply of Gents Uniform Clothing. Supply of 800 MM HR Grade Nylon Conveyor Belt.

Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत बारां

क्रमांक: 304 दिनांक: 2.05.2022

निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2022-23

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से सड़क एवं भवन निर्माण कार्यों के अन्तर्गत मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/ रेलवे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के "एए", "ए" श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in/tenders.asp व http://www.pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://sppp.raj.nic.in पर देखा जा सकता है।

अधीक्षण अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. वृत बारां

डीआईपीआर/सी/6419/2022

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY. e-Tender Notice

Tender No: e-Tender No.04/2022-23/SE/PHC/ALP KIIFB - Augmentation and Modernization of water supply distribution system in Alappuzha Municipality, Aryad, Mannancherry and Mararikulam South panchayaths - Balance Works - Package V - Supplying and Laying distribution lines in Mararikulam South Panchayath. EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/- Tender fee : Rs. 17,700/- Last Date for submitting Tender : 07-06-2022 02:00:pm
Phone : 0477- 2237954
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in KWA-JB-GL-6-167-2022-23

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle
Alappuzha

Government of Tamil Nadu
TAMILNADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathi Salai, Egmore, Chennai – 600 008
Ph: +91-44-2855 4479, 2855 4480; Fax: +91-44-2855 3729
E-mail: hr@tidco.com Website: https://tidco.com / www.careers.tidco.com

Recruitment Notification

Notification No.TIDCO/HR/Recruitment/2022-1 Dated : 08.05.2022

Applications are invited for the following posts only through online mode from 08.05.2022 at 10.00 am to 23.05.2022 up to 5.00 pm from the eligible candidates who wish to join the services of Tamilnadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO).

S.No.	Name of the Post	Sector	No. of vacancy	Compensation	Mode of Recruitment
1.	Assistant Manager	Accounts	One (1)	Consolidated Pay (Depending on experience and qualification)	Contract Basis
2.	Assistant Manager	Company Secretary	One (1)		
3.	Assistant Manager	Facilitation	One (1)		
4.	Assistant Manager	Projects	One (1)		

For the detailed notification, qualification, experience, selection process, online application and other details, please visit our official website https://tidco.com/www.careers.tidco.com

DIPR/438/Display/2022 CHAIRMAN AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Madhya Pradesh State Tourism Development Corporation Limited (MPSTDC)
Corporate Identification Number (CIN) – U63040MP1978SGC001445
Registered Office: Paryatan Bhavan, Bhadbhada Road, Bhopal 462003. Tel.: 0755-2774450
Website : www.mpstdc.com Email: sandesh@mpstdc.com

Tender No: 34 Date: 06 May, 2022

"EOI for development of a viable hospitality facility at the existing MPT Lake View Residency Hotel at Bhopal through Private Sector Participation on DBFOT basis for Promoting Tourism"

MPSTDC invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for the purpose of Pre-NIT Conference from qualified and experienced applicants for above. The detailed document can be downloaded from https://www.mpstdc.com/www.mptenders.gov.in.

Interested Applicants eligible as per qualification criteria may submit their response to the EOI latest by **10 June 2022 till 1500 hrs.**

For any other information, contact Mr. Sandesh Yashlaha at 9424796880 or email – sandesh@mpstdc.com.

For any technical issues contact MP e- Procurement Toll free number – 0120-4001 002.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITY DELHI
(A University of Law Established by Act No. 1 of 2008 of NCT of Delhi)
Sector-14, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT 2022

LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS	:	25 May, 2022
ALL INDIA LAW ENTRANCE TEST (AILET)	:	26 June, 2022 (10.00 am - 11.30 am) (To be conducted offline)

National Law University Delhi invites online applications for admission to **B.A.LL.B. (Hons.), LL.M. and Ph.D. Programmes** for the academic year 2022-23.

The University also invites applications for admission to PhD (Law/ Regulations) with IPR Chair Fellowship, CIIPC Fellowship, IFSCA Fellowship and PFRDA Fellowship in specified areas (One fellowship each).

For all details, please visit: **https://nationallawuniversitydelhi.in**

PROF. (DR.) HARPREET KAUR
REGISTRAR

ANDHRA PRADESH LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (APLDA), GUNTUR

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.31/T3/2021 (Vol-I) Date: 06-05-2022

e-Procurement tenders are invited for supply of High Genetic Merit Murrah Frozen Semen (years 2022-24) to Andhra Pradesh Livestock Development Agency (APLDA), Andhra Pradesh for a period of two years as per the terms and conditions laid down in the RFP. For details log on to **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** For further information contact: The CEO, Andhra Pradesh Livestock Development Agency, Kothapet Main Road, Veterinary Hospital Campus, Guntur-522001, Andhra Pradesh. Contact No. 9949123937, 7680962616.

Sd/- Chief Executive Officer, AP Livestock Development Agency, Guntur

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER PHED, REGION AJMER

Telephone No. 0145-2628475 Fax No. 0145-2970247

No. F.()/Ar.MP/2022-2023/ Date:

CORRIDENDUM-1
(NIT No. 03/2022-2023)

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2022-2023 issued vide this office letter No. 503-553 Dated 12.04.2022, following amendments are hereby notified:

As per Published Information	Now amended as
Following bids are invited from interested bidders online upto 02.05.2022". Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)	"Bids for NIT No. 03/2022-23 is invited from interested bidders online upto 09.05.2022". Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal. (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in)

All other terms, conditions and stipulations of the original NIT shall remain unchanged.

UBN No. PHE2223WSOB00793
DIPR/C/5742/2022
DIPR/C/6321/2022

(Mukul Bhargava)
Addl. Chief Engineer
PHED Region, Ajmer

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/IT/(1288414)/HPSS/2022/D-83 Date : 06.05.2022

NOTICE INVITING BID
NIB No.: JDA-IT-03 : 2022-23
UBN No.: JDA2223SLOB00056

Online Bids are invited up-to **3:00 PM** of **30.05.2022** for **"Hiring of IT Professionals for Application Software Support Services"**. The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA portal is upto **3.00 PM** of **26.05.2022**. The estimated cost of NIB is **Rs. 300.00 Lakh.** Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :-

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.urban.rajasthan.gov.in for participating in the Bid, the Bidder has to apply for the Bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee online only.
2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

System Analyst
Procuring Entity

Raj. Samwad/C/2022-23/1554

COVID-induced break upsets the rhythms of tribal dancers in Odisha

Out of practice for more than two years with the physical distancing norms due to the virus, the artists are losing touch of their art and a livelihood

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

When Jitu Mishra went to Kalahandi in Odisha to document tribal art and culture, the Dhap dance in particular, he was dismayed by the struggle of the local organisers to get the tribal performers on stage.

"I stayed in Kalahandi for three days to see the Dhap dance by the Kondh tribe. But I was told the pandemic has dealt a devastating blow to tribal dance, song and music; and the performers could not be arranged," Mr. Mishra, a researcher who visited Kalahandi in February, said.

He explained how the indigenous culture, already under threat from the onslaught of modern-day entertainment, had further degenerated during the pandemic. The tribal dancers, both men and women, perform in a group as singers, dancers and drummers, all rolled into one. In this, they are different from the folk dancers who take on specific roles on stage.

In a panic

Paramananda Patel, who researches tribal life, said the COVID-19 guidelines on maintaining physical distance and legal action upon violation created panic among the tribal people in the State.

"The community that had strong bonding began to live in isolation due to the fear of the novel coronavirus infection. The evening dance performances in villages and during festivals came to a halt during the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown and badly affected their sociocultural life," Mr. Patel said.

Not only did the performers stop singing, dancing and beating drums, the young members of the community also lost the opportunity to watch the veterans perform and learn from them. The costumes and instruments of the tribal dancers, musicians and singers have remained untouched for the past two years and suffered damage from disuse and termites.

Not in step: Tribespeople performing a dance during the Adivasi Mela in Bhubaneswar on April 27. • BISWARANJAN ROUT

Yet another casualty in the disruption of performances has been the traditional form of tribal rendition. "Many tribal performers known to be instant poets have lost the skill of spontaneous singing," Parameswar Mund, a Bhawanipatna-based folklorist, pointed out. He said the artists now struggled to recall the songs they once sang effortlessly during pre-COVID times. "When they are unable to sing, the interlude music is played on, and the tribal dancer then loses the rhythm, the hallmark of every performance," he added.

Kumuda Pujhari, a Bhadra tribesman who performs the Dandari dance, said he now dreaded returning to the stage. "I have forgotten all songs. There was a time when I used to perform in Bhubaneswar and outside the State," he said.

Non-tribals grab chance

The addiction of new-generation performers to the Internet has been another bane. It has diminished their interest in traditional forms and started affecting their performances. Their steps now inadvertently tend to follow the modern dance steps in order to get a chance to showcase their skills on bigger platforms. It is usually the non-tribals who adopt the tribal dance steps and usurp the lucrative platforms created by government agencies.

With the district- and block-level cultural functions discontinued and restrictions imposed on gatherings, the tribal dancers have lost even those limited opportunities.

Earlier, the government-run Academy of Tribal Language and Culture (ATLC)

SPECIAL

used to sponsor at least 100 visits of tribal performers to different festivals annually. The opportunities to perform kept them busy and in practice of their art. "We have not sponsored any tribal dance troupes in the past two years," said Mr. Patel, senior tribal domain expert with the ATLC.

The dance forms of Bhatra, Paraja, Dongria Kondh, Kutia Kondh, Gond and Saura have also suffered due to COVID-19 protocol.

In the Juanga community in Keonjhar, there is a social tradition called *Samuduni Dekha*, in which the mother goes to stay with her married daughter and the community comes out in celebration to welcome her often with song and dance. This ceremonial practice involving song and dance at the community level too received a jolt.

Financial sustenance

"If we want to ensure our tribal dance and music survive, the master tribal dancers and singers need to be identified on priority and provided remuneration to preserve the art forms. Financial assistance for safe keeping of their costumes and instruments should be considered; else, this intangible heritage will become a relic," Mr. Mishra warned.

FIR filed, police tell SC in *Dharam Sansad* case

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Doing a U-turn, the Delhi Police have informed the Supreme Court about the registration of an FIR against a *Dharam Sansad* programme for promoting enmity and deliberately insulting religious feelings.

Days after the earlier affidavit denied evidence of vitriol at the programme, the police, in their latest affidavit, said they would investigate the case in "accordance with the law".

Under criticism, the police had promised the court to file a "better affidavit".

In the second one, the police have explained that "all the links given in the complaint and other materials available in the public domain were analysed. One video containing recording of the programme was found to be uploaded on YouTube channel. After further verification, an FIR dated May 4, 2022, was registered at PS Okhla Industrial Area under Sections 153A, 295A, 298 and 34 of the IPC".

The second affidavit is in stark contrast to the earlier one which said the "words spoken at the event were about empowering one's religion to prepare itself to face the evils which could endanger its existence, which is not even remotely connected to a call for genocide of any particular religion".

187 Bangladeshis sent back in over a year: BSF

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

On April 29, the border guarding forces arrested two Bangladeshi women at the Jeetpur border outpost in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal. The women had illegally crossed the border to meet a relative who was undergoing treatment for blood cancer in West Bengal. On May 1, four Bangladeshi fishermen who had ventured into Indian waters while fishing in the Padma river in Murshidabad district were arrested by the BSF.

In both cases, the Border Security Force (BSF) handed over the people to the Border Guards Bangladesh. Almost every week, people inadvertently cross the border, S.S. Guleria, spokesperson of the South Bengal Frontier of the BSF, said..

Between January 2021 and March 2022, the BSF South Bengal Frontier handed over 187 Bangladeshis to the BGB. Of them, 135 crossed the border in 2021 and 52 between January and March 2022. Sixty-three of those apprehended were women and 27 children.

'COVID death count of WHO flawed, bid to tarnish India'

State Health Ministers' meet passes resolution flaying world body's estimate

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KEVADIA

The Health Ministers of various States who attended the 14th conference of the Central Council of Health and Family Welfare (CCHFW) slammed the World Health Organization (WHO) for its estimate of 4.7 million COVID-related deaths in India, saying it was "baseless" and "intended to show the country in a poor light".

They said India had a robust, efficient and comprehensive system for registering deaths and all COVID-19 fatalities are systematically recorded transparently following a legal process.

On Friday, a resolution was passed at the conference strongly objecting to the WHO's estimates of COVID-19 deaths in India.

It stated that the WHO estimate was "unacceptable" to India and the modelling methodology used by the global health body to reach the figure was "flawed".

The three-day conference of the CCHFW, an apex advisory body of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, began in Gujarat's Kevadia on Thursday. It was chaired by Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

Meet-up: Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired 'Swasthya Chintan Shivir'. • TWITTER/@MANSUKHMANDVIYA

Karnataka Health Minister K. Sudhakar questioned the modelling methodology used by the WHO to arrive at the death estimate. "There is no rationale behind the modelling methodology used by WHO to arrive at the estimate. All Health Ministers at the conference here have condemned the report and passed a resolution against it. We have urged Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya to convey India's disappointment to WHO and raise it at higher international forums," he said.

"We stand by our numbers because there is a robust, legal and transparent system for data collection and COVID mortality surveillance. It's a sheer attempt to malign India which has done good work on COVID management. There seems to be a malafide intention behind the report," he added.

Punjab Health Minister Vijay Singla alleged that the WHO's death estimate was "fabricated" and it had not made a proper calculation to arrive at the figure of 47.4 lakh deaths.

"India has a strong data collection system and there is no reason to doubt its authenticity. The modelling methodology used by the global health body was not scientific," he said.

Madhya Pradesh Minister of Medical Education Vishwas Sarang alleged there was a conspiracy to belittle India's achievements on the COVID-19 front starting from the low mortality rate to the high vaccination coverage.

"The figures by WHO are erroneous and not based on sound mathematics. All Health Ministers at the conference rejected the WHO report saying it was not founded on facts," he said.

Mr. Sarang said that "20 to 22 Health Ministers, including those from States not ruled by the BJP, unanimously rejected the WHO report".

Echoing similar sentiments, Health Minister of Sikkim M.K. Sharma and his Bihar counterpart, Mangal Pandey, alleged that the WHO report was "devoid of facts" and its modelling methodology was "not scientific".

It's a deliberate attempt to portray India in a poor light, they said, adding that registration of births and deaths in the country is extremely robust and is governed by the decades-old statutory legal framework the Births and Deaths Registration Act.

SC seeks govt. view on making sports a right

Report seeks physical literacy mission

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court has asked the Centre and States to respond to a report recommending sports to be expressly made a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution.

A report submitted by the *amicus curiae*, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, suggested that the "narrow" phrase "sport" be replaced by "physical literacy", which is a term "firmly established as a right in the leading sporting nations of the world".

A Bench led by Justice L. Nageswara Rao has directed the Centre to respond to the report's view to establish a National Physical Literacy Mission to "give effect to the right by establishing and implementing a responsibilities matrix that includes curriculum design, compliance monitoring, and review, grievance redress and self-correction mechanisms", which starts at the school level to groom children for various sports.

"All school boards, including CBSE, ICSE, State Boards, IB, IGCSE, should be directed to ensure that from the academic year , at least 90 minutes of every

school day will be dedicated to free play and games," Mr. Sankaranarayanan's report in the apex court recommended.

Time given

The report suggested that State governments ought to ensure that from the current academic year, "all non-residential colleges and schools should compulsorily allow access during non-working hours to neighbourhood children to use sports facilities for free, subject to basic norms of identification, security and care". The report opined that 180 days' time should be given to educational institutions to publish a physical literacy policy.

The report was filed on a PIL plea moved by Kanishka Pandey to amend the Constitution to make sports a fundamental right.

ULFA(I) kills two men for 'spying'

Outfit says they were moles of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent or ULFA(I) has killed two of its members for allegedly spying for the "occupational Indian forces". In a statement issued on Saturday, the outfit's publicity wing said the Assam police had planted Dhanjit Das and Sanjib Sarma to provide information about the activities of ULFA(I) members.

The outfit operates from the bases of a Naga extremist group in Myanmar's Sagaing Division.

"The two were found guilty of working as moles of the Indian system. They were executed today [Saturday] according to the provisions of our constitution," ULFA(I) chief Paresh Baruah said from an undisclosed location.

The group said Das, from western Assam's Barpeta district, was caught a day after he tried to flee its camp on April 24. He had admitted to motivating ULFA(I) members to quit, besides supplying information about people associated with the outfit to the police.

Sarma was caught with "advanced communication devices" that were used to relay information to the police, the outfit claimed after releasing a video showing him confessing that the police and the Indian Army made him infiltrate the ULFA (I) to spy for them.

In the video, Sarma is heard saying he was promised ₹1 crore by Joint Commissioner of Police (Guwahati) Partha Sarathi Mahanta to supply information on the outfit. He also said the police told him his undercover assignment would be an opportunity to avenge the death of his elder brother, Apurba Kumar Sarma, a para-commando in the Army, killed in an ambush in Manipur a few months ago. Mr. Mahanta had trashed the claim.

Recruitment drive

The ULFA (I), which declared a ceasefire almost a year ago, has been on a recruitment drive. A few sportspersons and a Youth Congress leader are among those believed to have joined it in the recent months.

Tough anteater leaves forest officials antsy

Pangolin rescued from Ranthambhore refuses to touch food at Nahargarh Park

MOHAMMAD IQBAL
JAIPUR

After its rescue from the Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, a pangolin is giving a tough time to forest officials in the Nahargarh Biological Park near Jaipur in captivity. The endangered mammal has refused to accept any food given by the park staff and is mostly spending time in a burrow which it has dug out for itself.

The forest authorities have now made a global call and sounded nearly 40 experts in Africa, Taiwan, China and Hong Kong, where pangolins live and have been recorded born in captivity. Some of them have responded and sent in their suggestions to keep the pangolin alive.

The Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*), also called scaly anteater, has large and overlapping scales on its body. In the wild, pangolins survive on ants, termites and other invertebrates such as larvae, flies, worms, earthworms and crickets, which are difficult to be procured in a zoo or in captive conditions.

Not an inch: The rescued pangolin at the Nahargarh Biological Park near Jaipur. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Jagdish Gupta, Assistant Conservator of Forests of the park, said the officials had tried to feed the mammal with a variety of foods procured from around the park. "We ordered a packet of worms from Ahmedabad and offered it, but it did not taste them. We gave it pieces of raw and boiled egg, but it did not touch them," he said.

As the Nandankanan Zoological Park in Odisha feeds its pangolin with its favourite food, red ants, delivered by tribal people commissioned for this job, the park authorities were contacted for help. Mr. Gupta said the suppliers, who breed ants as reported, were not willing to send the food to as far as Rajasthan.

Pangolin is not commonly found in Rajasthan and is threatened by hunting for its meat and various body parts used in traditional medicines. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists Indian pangolin as an endangered animal, but no significant material is available on its ecology, which is most misunderstood since ages.

Mr. Gupta said a small enclosure with hard ground, where the pangolin was kept last month, was apparently not favourable to the animal. It has since been released in a large enclosure, covering about 20 hectares, where a hippopotamus also lives, to let it forage on its own.

Among the foreign specialists who were contacted, Simba Chen, a Hong Kong-based expert on birds and habitats, responded and connected the Nahargarh officials with the Taipei zoo. Another expert, Gary W.J. Ades, head of fauna conservation department, Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong, has responded in detail and provided information on what is being fed to pangolins in captivity at various zoos.

Dr. Ades suggested that the pangolin be kept in a small area with deep leaf litter to make it more relaxed and fed with different mixtures in addition to placing a full polyarchic ant nest near it. Though the countries such as Thailand, Vietnam and Taiwan have started developing *ex situ* husbandry protocols for pangolins, the captive breeding programme has reported low success rate.

Tourism & Wildlife Society of India (TWSI) secretary Harsh Vardhan said the shifting of the endangered pangolin was a loss for Ranthambhore and a gain for Nahargarh.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	2	5	7	9	1	4	8	6
1	7	9	8	6	4	5	3	2
4	6	8	5	3	2	1	9	7
6	3	2	1	8	5	9	7	4
5	8	1	4	7	9	2	6	3
9	4	7	3	2	6	8	5	1
8	9	6	2	1	3	7	4	5
7	1	4	6	5	8	3	2	9
2	5	3	9	4	7	6	1	8

Taliban order Afghan women to cover fully

Akhundzada says all-covering, blue burqa ideal; dress code violations to attract slew of punishments

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

The Taliban on Saturday imposed some of the harshest restrictions on Afghanistan's women since they seized power, ordering them to cover fully in public, ideally with the traditional burqa.

The militants took back control of the country in August last year, promising a softer rule than their previous stint in power between 1996 and 2001, which was marked by human rights abuses.

But they have already imposed a slew of restrictions on women – banning them from many government jobs, secondary education, and from travelling alone outside their cities.

On Saturday, Afghanistan's supreme leader and Taliban chief Hibatullah Akhundzada approved a strict dress code for women in public.

"Those women who are not too old or young must cover their face, except the eyes, as per sharia directives,

Repressive steps: Afghan women walk through the old market in Kabul, in this file photo. • AP

in order to avoid provocation when meeting men who are not mahram (adult close male relatives)," said a decree approved by Akhundzada and released by Taliban authorities at a ceremony in Kabul.

It said the best way for a woman to cover her face and body was to wear the chadari, a traditional, blue, all-covering Afghan burqa.

"They should wear a chadari as it is traditional and respectful," it said.

Akhundzada's decree also said that if women had no important work outside then it was "better they stay at home".

The Ministry for Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, which released the new order, announced a slew of punishments if the dress code is not followed.

It said a woman's father or male guardian would be summoned and could even be imprisoned if the offence was committed repeatedly.

Women working in government institutions who did not follow the order "should be fired", the Ministry added.

Government employees whose wives and daughters do not comply will also be suspended from their jobs, the decree said.

The new restrictions were expected to spark a flurry of condemnation abroad.

'Regressive step'

Many in the international community want humanitarian aid for Afghanistan and recognition of the Taliban government to be linked to the restoration of women's rights.

"It is an unexpected regressive step and will not help Taliban in winning international recognition," said Imtiaz Gul, head of the Islamabad-based Centre for Research and Security Studies.

"Such steps will only intensify opposition to them."

During their first regime, the Taliban made the burqa compulsory for women.

Since their return to power, the much-feared vice ministry has issued several "guidelines" on dress but Saturday's edict is one of the harshest restrictions on women.

"Islam never recommended chadari," said a women's rights activist. "I believe the Taliban are becoming regressive instead of being progressive. They are going back to the way they were in their previous regime."

Another women's rights activist, Muska Dastageer, said Taliban rule had triggered "too much rage and disbelief".

"We are a broken nation forced to endure assaults we cannot fathom. As a people we are being crushed," she said on Twitter.

The hardline Islamists triggered international outrage in March when they ordered secondary schools for girls to shut, just hours after they reopened for the first time since their seizure of power.

Sinn Fein hails 'new era' as it wins Northern Ireland vote

The party has secured 27 Assembly seats, ahead of the DUP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BELFAST

Sinn Fein leader Michelle O'Neill on Saturday acclaimed a "new era" for Northern Ireland as her Irish nationalist party handed a historic election defeat to pro-U.K. unionists who had monopolised power for decades.

Once the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, Sinn Fein is set to nominate Ms. O'Neill as First Minister.

With 88 of 90 seats filled from Thursday's proportional voting, Sinn Fein was assured of 27 seats in the Stormont Assembly, ahead of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and the cross-community Alliance party.

"Today ushers in a new era," Ms. O'Neill told supporters and the media.

"It's a defining moment for our politics and our people," added Ms. O'Neill, who at 45 came of political age after the 1998 Good Friday

Michelle O'Neill

Agreement ended three decades of bloodshed in Northern Ireland. "I will provide leadership which is inclusive, which celebrates diversity, which guarantees rights and equality for those who have been excluded, discriminated against or ignored in the past."

The DUP occupied the role of First Minister in the outgoing Assembly, before it collapsed the executive in protest at post-Brexit trading rules between U.K. and EU.

DUP leader Jeffrey Donaldson demanded that U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson "deliver on his word to honour the commitments he has given and to take the action that is necessary" on the Northern Ireland Protocol.

He urged "decisive action by the government to remove the Irish Sea border, because we don't believe it is acceptable or necessary to have checks on goods moving within the United Kingdom".

While Sinn Fein will get to nominate a First Minister, Northern Ireland's government can only form under the 1998 deal if the DUP agrees to take part and serve in the role of Deputy First Minister.

Mr. Johnson's Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis is expected to meet the party leaders in Belfast on Monday. The parties will have 24 weeks to resolve their differences or face a new election.

Offensive launched against Taliban rule: armed group

NRF claims three northern districts seized; Taliban commander says 'not surrounded or ambushed'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KABUL

An Afghan insurgent group led by the son of late anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Massoud claimed Saturday to have seized three northern districts from the hardline Islamists, after announcing a wide military offensive.

The National Resistance Front (NRF), led by Ahmad Massoud, said the action in the Panjshir Valley was its first armed offensive against Taliban forces since they stormed back to power.

NRF forces were the last to hold out against the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August last year, retreating to the Valley which fell in September, weeks after U.S.-backed government troops capitulated.

"Since last night when Ahmad Massoud... ordered his forces to launch their offensive, three major districts were liberated in Panjshir," Ali Nazary, head of the NRF's foreign relations, said.

The NRF took the main road, outposts and villages in these districts and then besieged the Taliban in the district offices, he said.

"Many Taliban fighters have asked for time to surrender. The enemy has suffered heavy casualties."

Mr. Nazary said the NRF offensive would continue across 12 provinces where its forces had a presence, mostly in the north.

The Taliban government rejected the NRF claims, saying there had been no "military incidents" in Panjshir or any other part of the country.

"The allegations made by some insurgents in the media are untrue," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said on Twitter.

'Heavy fighting'

Residents of Panjshir said there was heavy fighting during the night. "People are leaving the areas because of the fighting," said one, who asked not to be named.

Another said NRF fighters set a Taliban vehicle alight.

A local Taliban commander confirmed there was fighting with NRF fighters.

"But we have not been surrounded or ambushed," Dad Mohammad Batar said.

The Panjshir Valley is famed for being the site of resistance to Soviet forces in the 1980s, as well to the Taliban in the late 1990s.

Its most revered figure is Ahmad Shah Massoud, known as the "Lion of Panjshir", who was assassinated in 2001 by Al-Qaeda, two days before the 9/11 attacks.

His son has since picked up the mantle, and media reports say he has been organising a resistance with other exiled Afghan leaders.

Ukraine says it sank Russian landing craft

No confirmation yet from Moscow

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Kyiv said on Saturday it has destroyed another Russian warship near the Black Sea's Snake Island, where Ukrainian forces were awarded for heroism after rebuffing Russian demands to surrender.

Ukraine's Defence Ministry said in a statement an armed drone had destroyed a Serna-class landing craft and a missile defence system.

It released grainy overhead footage on social media showing in black and white what appeared to be an explosion over a light craft with debris spilling outwards.

"The traditional parade of the Russian Black Sea fleet on May 9 this year will be held near Snake Island – at the bottom of the sea," the Defence Ministry said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the strike from Russia.

Kyiv: children, women out of besieged plant

ASSOCIATED PRESS
KYIV

Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister on Saturday said all women, children and elderly have been evacuated from the Azovstal steel mill in Mariupol.

Iryna Vereshchuk said in a statement: "The President's order has been carried out: all women, children and the elderly have been evacuated from Azovstal. This part of the Mariupol humanitarian operation has been completed."

Sri Lankan Emergency sparks criticism

Diplomats, rights group and Opposition call the move counterproductive

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa's move declaring a state of Emergency late on Friday has sparked wide criticism within Sri Lanka, as well as from the international actors who contended it was unhelpful and counterproductive, coming amid peaceful citizens' protests.

Government critics and civil society groups fear that the Emergency regulations, which give sweeping powers to the police and armed forces, could be used to quell public dissent that has intensified in recent days. Several thousand Sri Lankans are agitating on the streets relentlessly, blaming the ruling Rajapaksa brothers' "misgovernance" for the island's unprecedented economic downturn.

'Just resign'

Leader of Opposition Sajith Premadasa said in a tweet: "Under no circumstances @GotabayaR will you hold this country down with nothing but fear & violence. The state of emergency runs counter to seeking any solution to the crisis. JUST RESIGN."

The Bar Association of Sri Lanka, a professional body of lawyers, expressed "grave concern" over the move. "Declaration of a state of emergency is not the answer to the present situation in the country including the spate of public protests and strikes which have occurred. We re-iterate that the state of emergency must not be used to stifle peaceful protests and dissent or to make arbitrary arrests and detentions. The protests in turn must not be violent and must remain peaceful at all times," it said in a statement.

Even before the Emergency came into effect from Friday midnight, police unleashed water cannons and tear gas on students protesting outside Parliament on Thursday and Friday, neither of which seems to have deterred demonstrators going by the crowd since.

The Colombo-based NGO Centre for Policy Alterna-

National People's Power supporters protesting in Colombo on Saturday. • AP

tives said it is "alarmed" by the "violent", and "intimidatory" tactics used by authorities, with the declaration of state of Emergency "being the latest move to crush dissent and other democratic rights", despite peaceful citizens mobilizing peacefully.

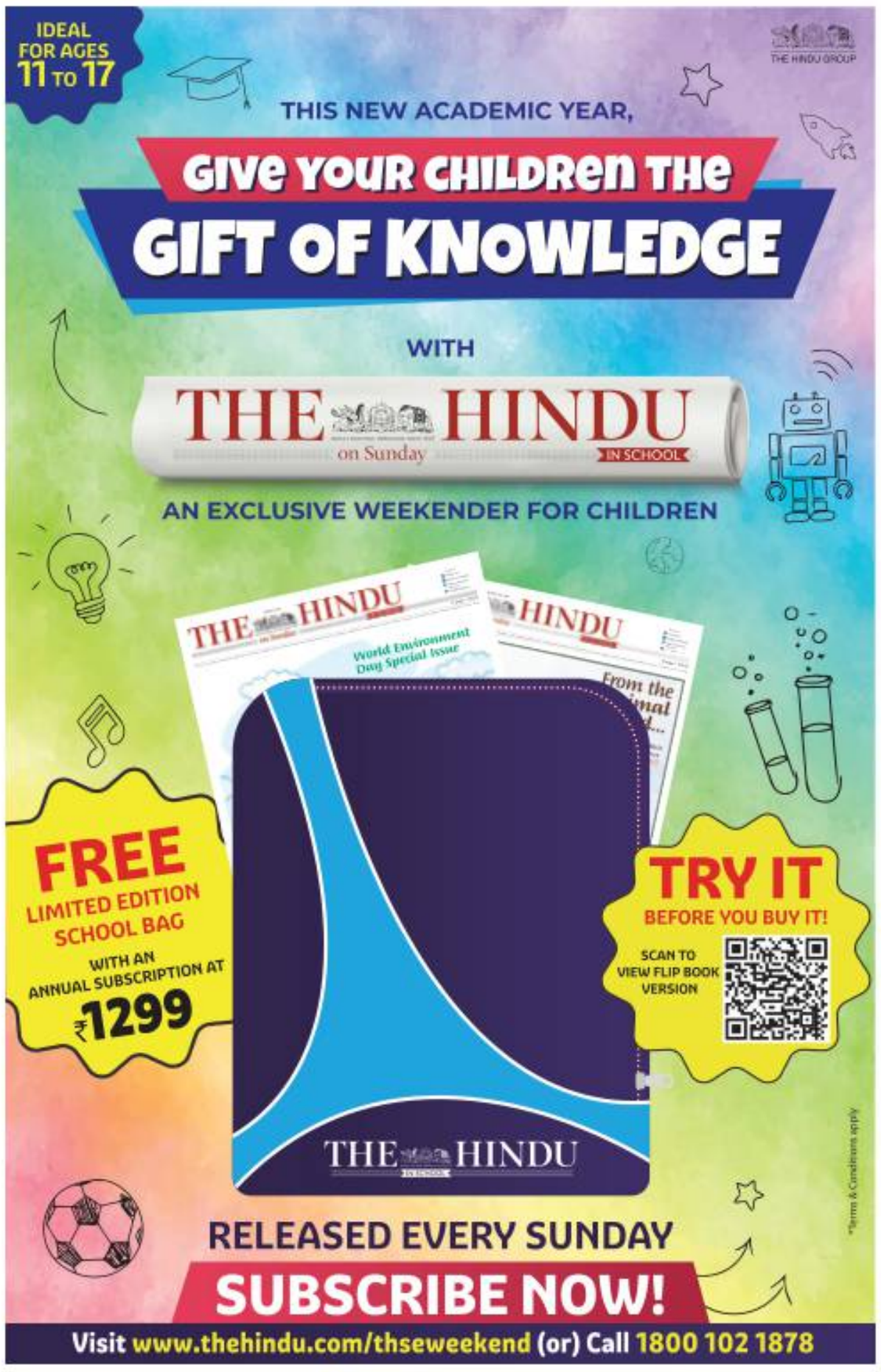
Canada's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka David McKinnon said in a tweet: "Over the past weeks, the demonstrations across #SriLanka have overwhelmingly involved citizens enjoying their right to peaceful freedom of expression and are a credit to the country's democracy. It's hard to understand why it is necessary, then, to declare a state of emergency."

Echoing the sentiment, the European Union said: "State of emergency will certainly not help solving the country's difficulties and could have a counterproductive effect!" Several other Colombo-based diplomats took to twitter to question the President's decision.

Unfazed by the criticism, the government defended the Emergency, saying it was imposed "to ensure political stability which is a vital condition in overcoming the current socio-economic crisis in the country thereby assuring public safety and uninterrupted supply of essential services."

Issuing a statement, the Department of Information said: "The current agitations being held throughout the country including the capital for the last several days have posed a grave threat to the security of public life," although the protests have remained peaceful.

There have been no reports of demonstrators resorting to violence or damaging any public property.



ELSEWHERE

Macron inaugurated for second term

PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron was sworn in for a second term on Saturday after his election victory over the far right, facing immense challenges in foreign and domestic policy following a first term which had often polarised the nation. In a ceremony at the Elysee Palace, Mr. Macron was confirmed by Constitutional Council chief Laurent Fabius as the winner of April presidential election and then signed the formal re-investiture document. AFP

North Korea fired missile from submarine: Seoul

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SEOUL

North Korea fired a submarine-launched ballistic missile on Saturday, Seoul said, its second missile launch in three days, after the United States warned Pyongyang could be preparing for a nuclear test.

Pyongyang has dramatically ramped up its missile launches this year, conducting 15 weapons tests since January including firing an intercontinental ballistic missile at full range for the first time since 2017.

The latest launch comes just days before South Korea swears in a new, hawkish President Yoon Suk-yeol, who has vowed to get tough on Pyongyang and bolster the U.S. security alliance.

Satellite imagery indicates North Korea may also be preparing to resume nuclear testing, with the U.S. State Department on Friday warning a test could come "as early as this month".

"Our military detected around 14:07 (0507 GMT) a short-range ballistic missile presumed to be an SLBM fired from waters off Sinpo, South Hamgyong," Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said. The missile flew 600 km at a maximum altitude of 60 km, the JCS added.

It landed outside Japan's exclusive economic zone, Tokyo's Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi said.

Eight arrested over 'religious killing' in Pak.

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAHORE

Pakistani police say they arrested eight men of the Ahmadi sect of Islam on Saturday who had opened fire on a group of Sunni Muslims the night prior, killing one and wounding another.

Police said the Ahmadis shot at the Sunnis while they were chanting religious poems in the village of Bahuman in Punjab. One minor suspect was still missing.

The killing was a rare case of violence exercised by Ahmadis, who have long held a grievance against majority Sunnis.

SNAPSHOTS

Meat substitute
Replacing just one-fifth of global beef consumption with a meat substitute within the next 30 years could halve deforestation across the globe and the carbon emissions associated with it. Researchers modelled the effects of swapping beef with a fungus-based meat. They noticed that replacing 80% of beef with mycoprotein would eliminate about 90% of forest loss.

Porcine virus
In January, a person in the United States became the first recipient of a pig-heart transplant. He died two months later, and doctors now say the genetically edited pig heart carried a porcine virus that could have contributed to his death. The main concern is that the virus can damage the heart.

It's a pulsar
An object that astronomers thought was a distant galaxy has now been discovered as the brightest extra-galactic pulsar ever seen. Pulsars are among the few celestial objects that emit circular polarised light. So, the scientists used a computer programme that filters out other kinds of light. After the filtering process, the team could then spot the 'hidden' pulsar.

Risky research
Researchers are calling on the United States government to issue clearer guidance about the experiments that it might fund to make pathogens more transmissible or deadly. Manipulating viruses help answer valid and important questions, but policymakers are yet to determine when the risk of creating a deadly pathogen outweighs the benefits.

Omicron: severe in virus-naive, unvaccinated people

Omicron has started to level the playing field, narrowing the gap between unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals

RAJEEV JAYADEVAN

As the SARS-CoV-2 virus continues to adapt to the human host, it has been transforming itself in ways that can escape immune protection. Omicron and its sub-lineages are ruling the world at this time, and it is important to know how well the vaccines are doing. For many reasons, real-world (field) experience is often different from the original efficacy studies conducted by vaccine manufacturers.

A&E visit

A recent study posted as a preprint in *medRxiv*, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, compared the real-world experience with Delta and Omicron, specifically addressing the risk of requiring a visit to the casualty or A&E (Accidents and Emergency, in the U.K.) among COVID-positive individuals of varying vaccination status. For the purpose of the study, visit to the casualty or A&E was used as an approximate marker of severity of disease, although an A&E visit can also be triggered for reasons other than COVID pneumonia The study by Daniel J. Grint and others looked at 2,37,430 people who got infected with Omicron, and 92,950 people with Delta in the U.K. during the month of December 2021.

They found that Omicron-infected individuals were less likely to require an A&E visit than Delta. While the common explanation is that the severity of Omicron is lower because of widespread vaccination, the authors found that this difference was also apparent among unvaccinated individuals. In other words, compared to Delta, unvaccinated people with Omicron were less likely to require an A&E visit.

This could mean one of two things, or both. Omicron by itself could be less pathogenic, or unvaccinated individuals have acquired a substantial level of immunity by now through natural infection. The latter is more likely, because we know that unvaccinated people in Hong Kong suffered severely from Omicron.

Natural infections were uncommon in Hong Kong because of their zero COVID strategy; this led to the absence of widespread natural immunity in the population. Thus, their suffering was not because the virus itself had become less lethal.

The lethality of the Omicron variant was highlighted by another large study. The recent study posted as a preprint in *Research Square*, which is yet to be peer-reviewed, by researchers from Harvard and Massachusetts General Hospital compared 1,30,000 COVID-19 patients during the Omicron and the Delta waves.

They found that contrary to popular belief, the severity of both these variants was almost the same, when measured in terms of hospitalisation and death rate. They discovered this after adjusting for confounding variables such as vaccination status, demography and comorbidities.

Omicron may appear as inherently mild but that is not true

The Omicron is as severe as the Delta variant. Vaccination and/or prior infection makes Omicron appear mild

- A study compared **the risk of requiring a visit to the casualty or accidents and emergency (A&E)** in the U.K. among COVID-positive individuals of varying vaccination status
- The study compared the **real-world experiences during the waves** caused by the Delta and the Omicron variants
- They found that **Omicron-infected individuals who were vaccinated were less likely to require an A&E visit** than during the Delta wave
- Compared to the Delta variant, even the **unvaccinated people with Omicron infection** were less likely to require an A&E visit
- This does not mean that Omicron has become less pathogenic but **unvaccinated individuals have been protected** through natural infection
- The proof comes from unvaccinated people in Hong Kong **who suffered severely from Omicron as protection from natural infection** was almost absent due to the zero-COVID strategy
- Another study found that once **confounding variables — vaccination status and comorbidities — were adjusted,** Omicron was as severe as Delta when measured in terms of hospitalisation and death rate

Protected: The intrinsic severity of Omicron has not reduced but rather our ability to counter the virus has improved. • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Immunity by vaccination

This indicates that the intrinsic severity of Omicron has not reduced, but rather our ability to counter the virus has improved – through immunity acquired by vaccination or natural infection.

The *medRxiv* study by Daniel Grint unearths more interesting findings pertaining to how well vaccines are doing with Omicron and Delta. In the case of the Omicron variant, the authors found that for most individuals, including healthy people over 70 years, it hardly mattered whether they were unvaccinated, vaccinated or boosted – they all had about the same risk of A&E visit.

However, elderly people who also had comorbidities were more likely to need an A&E visit if they were unvaccinated, implying that this subgroup of people stand to benefit the most from vaccination.

Marginal difference

Importantly, they also noted that with Omicron, the difference between those who were fully vaccinated with two doses and those who also received a booster shot was non-existent or marginal in most instances, with the exception of the same subgroup – elderly with comorbidities.

However, in the case of the Delta variant, unvaccinated people in all adult age groups were clearly more likely to need an A&E visit compared with those who were vaccinated.

They also report that compared to Omicron, the proportion of vaccinated and boosted individuals was considerably lower among the Delta-infected subgroup, implying that vaccine protection was higher against Delta.

The findings indicate that Omicron has started to level the playing field, narrowing the gap between unvaccinated and vaccinated individuals, a trend that was not observed with Delta.

This does not mean that vaccines are ineffective, as the overall risk of A&E visit is still greater among the unvaccinated. The study helps to categorise those who are more or less likely to experience a difference, by virtue of being vaccinated or boosted.

Compared to 2020, at least three major changes have occurred in the pandemic narrative, as we gather more evidence. First, while vaccines continue to protect against severe disease, their ability to stop infection or transmission is not good enough. Second, reinfections are common. This means that people who were vaccinated or unvaccinated could continue to repeatedly pick up infections if they got exposed to a large viral aerosol load. Finally, the risk of infection is lower in the initial few months following a vaccine dose or natural infection, but this early protection from infection rapidly wanes afterwards.

(Rajeev Jayadevan is co-Chairman, National IMA COVID Task Force)

Surface tension aids left-right symmetry

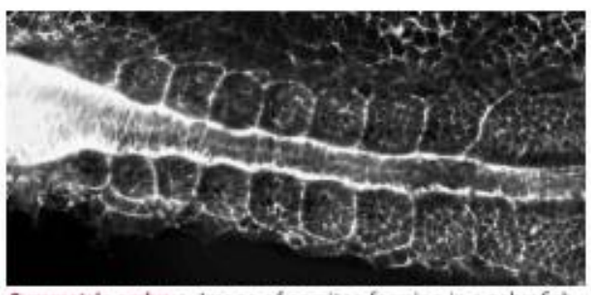
Scientists show physics perfects the symmetry in zebrafish embryos

SHUBASHREE DESIKAN

Having a vertebral column endows vertebrates with many similar characteristics and one of these is a bilateral or left-right symmetry. For instance, if we draw an imaginary line dividing a vertebrate's body from head to tail through the centre, we will see symmetrically placed eyes, limbs, etc.

To ask how this symmetric body structure comes into being means going to the embryonic stage and see how the precursors of skeleton and muscles, known as somites, develop. The question then is – does the left-right symmetry seen in the somites develop through some inbuilt mechanism of genetic regulation or is it a physical property of the tissues making up the somites?

A group of researchers studying zebrafish model embryos find that it is in fact surface tension that shapes these cells and not any genetic regulatory mechanism. The results of their study are published in *Nature*.



Symmetric embryo: Image of somites forming in a zebrafish embryo. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"A key insight of this study is the realisation that the precise patterns we see in developing organisms are not solely due to detailed genetic regulation, but rely on very generic physical properties of tissues," says Andrew C. Oates from the Institute of Bioengineering, Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland, in whose lab the study was carried out, in an email to *The Hindu*.

Implications

According to him, this has implications for understanding normal development, as well as birth deformities, and also for the precision of engineered tissues for patients from stem cells.

The group studied the development of somites in zebrafish embryos. "We were interested in understanding how a left-right symmetric muscle and skeletal system emerges from embryonic development," says Sundar Naganathan, who was a post doc in Prof. Oates' lab at the time the work was carried out. He is the first author of the paper.

They noticed that even though at the beginning, the somites are not perfectly arranged and some even violate the left-right symmetry, they eventually change shape, without a change in volume and adopt a perfectly symmetrical arrangement. The group deduces that this is surface tension at play in the tissues of the somites.

The main challenge was in imaging left and right sides of the embryo simultaneously, for which the researchers used a multi-view light-sheet microscope where the sample was rotated and imaged from multiple angles.

"The second challenge was developing data analysis tools, because each movie that we acquired using the light-sheet microscope was about 500 GB in size, and we had to come up with new tools to process these large data sets," says Dr. Naganathan.

Disturbance of left-right symmetry in individuals is seen in a condition called scoliosis where the backbone gets curved, either before birth itself or later, during active development as during adolescence.

Is La Nina a fair weather friend of our country?

It has resulted in long spells of heatwaves across India

JACOB KOSHY

In most years, meteorologists consider the La Nina to be a friend of India. The phenomenon associated with below normal sea surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific Ocean, makes the summer monsoon wetter and the winter colder unlike its evil twin, the El Nino, or a warming phenomenon that frequently dries up monsoon rains over India.

This year, however, the La Nina is being blamed for worsening perhaps the longest spell of heatwaves from March to April in north, west and Central India.

Periodic pattern

Formally known as the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO), the La Nina-El Nino phenomenon follows a periodic pattern that roughly lasts three years.

During a La Nina winter, a north-south pressure pattern sets up over India and normally this influences the trade winds that bring rains to India. However, because the La Nina didn't peak, the sea surface temperatures continued to be cold and this drove hot westerly winds and blasts of hot air from the Middle East into Pakistan and India.

"The north-south pressure pattern has been persisting over India, with La Nina extending its stay over the Pacific. This has definitely impacted the weather over India, which has been seen even during 1998-2000 when La Nina had persisted for three years," Raghu Murtugudde, Professor, Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science, University of Maryland told Climate Trends, a communications firm that specialises in climate and environment.

While land temperatures over India begin rising in March, they are usually punctuated by western disturbances, or moisture from the Mediterranean region that fall as rain over north and western India. For these currents to make it as far as India, they need a significant difference in temperature between Europe and the latitudes over India. "Partly due to La Nina, this temperature difference was absent and so the western disturbances that came to India were weak with hardly any rain," M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences and climate scientist, told *The Hindu*.

According to a 2021 report by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, 'Assessment of Climate Change over the Indian Region', all India averaged frequency of summer heatwaves is expected to rise to about 2.5 events per season by the mid-21st century, with a further slight rise to about 3.0 events by the end of 21st century under current trajectory of greenhouse gas emission.

Will BA.4, BA.5 Omicron lineages cause the next wave?

BA.4 and BA.5 lineages can escape immunity acquired through BA.1 infection, which is a cause for concern

BANI JOLLY
VINOD SCARIA

Late in November 2021, World Health Organization (WHO) designated the B.1.1.529 lineage of SARS-CoV-2 as Variant of Concern (VOC) Omicron. The swift rise of Omicron and displacement of previous lineages of SARS-CoV-2 across the world, particularly Delta, was suggestive that Omicron not only had a fitness advantage over Delta but also had the ability to infect people who had prior immunity to Delta or any previous lineages of the virus.

Three sister lineages

During its designation in 2021, VOC Omicron initially comprised three sister lineages: BA.1, BA.2 and BA.3, although each lineage differs significantly from the other in terms of its mutations. While lineage BA.3 remained relatively rare, lineages BA.1 and BA.2 were primarily responsible for the upsurge in COVID-19 cases across different countries, and also causing infections in fully vaccinated individuals – otherwise known as vaccine breakthrough infections. Over the time, BA.2 became the predominant Omicron lineage worldwide.

As of today, over 100 sub lineages of Omicron have been detected and designated from different regions of the world.

In April 2022, genome sequencing efforts by researchers in South Africa helped identify two new Omicron lineages in the region, which have been later designated by the Phylogenetic Assignment of Named Global Outbreak (PANGO) network as BA.4 and BA.5. The detection of the two lineages also coincides with an upswing in the numbers of COVID-19 cases seen in South Africa, briefly after a decline in numbers since the previous Omicron wave.

The two lineages have been driving the new wave of cases in South Africa, now touching over 10,000 cases daily and a test positivity of over 26%. Further, researchers in South Africa suggest that the two lineages BA.4 and BA.5 can escape immunity acquired through BA.1 infection.

Although not yet detected in India, the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages have been detected in low numbers in over 15 other countries, including the United Kingdom, Austria, Germany and the USA.

Precedent: The two lineages have led to a new COVID wave in South Africa, now touching 10,000 cases daily. • GETTY IMAGES

Early studies from South Africa estimate that BA.4 and BA.5 have a significant growth advantage over the BA.1 as well as BA.2 lineage, which could either be because of an ability of the lineages to transmit better or an ability to escape immunity from previous infections or vaccination. While significantly different from the original BA.1 lineage, BA.4 and BA.5 have an identical spike protein. Compared to BA.2, both BA.4 and BA.5 differ from the dominant Omicron lineage by three mutations and one deletion. One of the three distinct mutations found in the BA.4 and BA.5 lineages is L452R in the spike protein of the virus.

L452R mutation

Mutations at position L452R was found in Delta along with Kappa and Epsilon, while variant Lambda had L452Q. These mutations have been previously reported to be associated with increased infectivity of the virus and also has the ability to evade neutralisation by monoclonal antibodies. Preliminary research shows that BA.4 and BA.5 lineages may be capable of escaping immunity gained by a previous BA.1 infection. Preliminary evidence emerging in a preprint from South Africa also suggests that vaccines are potentially better in protecting against infection as compared to previous infection with BA.1. More evidence is required to understand the clinical outcomes of the new lineages.

The L452 mutations in the spike protein are not unique to BA.4 and BA.5 Omicron lineages but have also emerged independently in other Omicron sublineages in different countries. This includes the mutation L452Q in lineage BA.2.12.1, a sublineage of BA.2, which is recently seen to dominate COVID-19 cases in New York. As the number of infections continues to surge in the USA, proportions of BA.2.12.1 have also been seen to slowly increase, although the cases in the country continue to be dominated by its parent lineage BA.2.

As the Omicron variant continues to dominate the pandemic across the world, it is expected that additional sub-lineages of the variant will emerge as the virus continues to accumulate mutations. As the wave of infections progress, in South Africa and elsewhere more granular data is expected in the coming weeks which would throw light into whether these lineages, including BA.4 and BA.5, are capable of causing waves of infections in different countries or if they are able to prolong the ongoing surges by replacing the currently dominant BA.2 lineage.

Current evidence is insufficient to ascertain what will be the impact of these new variants on vaccine efficacy and other clinical outcomes compared to previous variants. Enhanced genome sequencing efforts, rapid sharing of genomic and epidemiological data also remain essential for detecting and tracking the prevalence of Omicron lineages. Irrespective of emerging variants, controlling transmission of the virus through non-pharmacological interventions like masking and increasing ventilation should remain the priority, apart from protecting the vulnerable through precautionary doses of vaccines.

(Bani Jolly and Vinod Scaria are researchers at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) in Delhi)

Question Corner

Hearing loss

Can hearing loss due to aging be reversed?

Hearing loss due to aging, noise and certain cancer therapy drugs and antibiotics has been irreversible because scientists have not been able to reprogramme existing cells to develop into the outer and inner ear sensory cells – essential for hearing – once they die.

The Northwestern Medicine scientists have now discovered a single master gene that programmes ear hair cells into either outer or inner ones, overcoming a major hurdle that had prevented the development of these cells to restore hearing (*Nature*).

Currently, scientists can produce an artificial hair cell, but it does not differentiate into an inner or outer cell, which provide different essential functions to produce hearing.

The death of outer hair cells made by the cochlea are most often the cause of deafness and hearing loss. The cells develop in the embryo and do not reproduce. The outer hair cells expand and contract in response to the pressure of sound waves and amplify sound for the inner hair cells. The inner cells transmit those vibrations to the neurons to create the sounds we hear.

The master gene switch Northwestern scientists discovered that programmes the ear hair cells is TBX2. When the gene is expressed, the cell becomes an inner hair cell. When the gene is blocked, the cell becomes an outer hair cell. The ability to produce one of these cells will require a gene cocktail, says a press release. The goal would be to reprogramme supporting cells, which are latticed among the hair cells and provide them with structural support, into outer or inner hair cells.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

Food labelling

What is the debate around the nutritional information packaging that the FSSAI has mooted?

JAGRITI CHANDRA

The story so far: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) is expected to issue a draft regulation for labels on front of food packets that will inform consumers if a product is high in salt, sugar and fat. It is expected to propose a system under which stars will be assigned to a product, which has earned the ire of public health experts and consumer organisations who say it will be misleading and ineffective. Health experts are demanding that the FSSAI instead recommend the "warning label" system which has proven to have altered consumer behaviour.

Why do we need front-of-package labelling?

■ In the past three decades, the country's disease patterns have shifted. While mortality due to communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases has declined and India's population is living longer, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries are increasingly contributing to the overall disease burden. In 2016, NCDs accounted for 55% of premature death and disability in the country. Indians also have a disposition for excessive fat around the stomach and abdomen which leads to increased risk of cardiovascular disease and type 2 diabetes. According to the National Family Health Survey-5 (2019-2021), 47.7% of men and 56.7% of women have high risk waist-to-hip ratio. An increased consumption of packaged and junk food has also led to a double burden of undernutrition and overnutrition among children. Over half of the children and adolescents, whether under-nourished or with normal weight, are at risk of cardiovascular diseases, according to an analysis by the Comprehensive National Nutrition Survey in India (2016-2018).

Reducing sugar, salt, and fat is among the best ways to prevent and control non-communicable diseases. While the FSSAI requires mandatory disclosure of nutrition information on food packets, this is located on the back of a packet and is difficult to interpret.

> Reducing sugar, salt, and fat is among the best ways to prevent non-communicable diseases. While the FSSAI requires mandatory disclosure on food packets, this appears on the back of a packet and is difficult to interpret

What decision has FSSAI taken?

■ At a stakeholder's meeting on February 15, 2022, three important decisions were taken on what would be the content of the draft regulations on front-of-package labelling. These included threshold levels to be used to determine whether a food product was high in sugar, salt and fat; that the implementation will be voluntary for a period of four years before it is made mandatory; and that the health-star rating system would be used as labels on the basis of a study commissioned by the FSSAI and conducted by IIM-Ahmedabad. The food industry agreed with the FSSAI's decision on the issue of mandatory implementation and use of ratings, and sought more time to study the issue of thresholds. The World Health Organization representative said the thresholds levels were lenient, while the consumer organisations opposed all three decisions.

The biggest contention is over the use of a health-star rating system that uses 1/2 a star to five stars to indicate the overall nutrition profile of a product. Despite objections, FSSAI CEO Arun Singhal told *The Hindu* that he stands by the IIM-A study as it is based on a survey of 20,500 people. He said stakeholders could share their comments once the draft regulations were made public. The FSSAI's scientific panel will then take that into consideration.

Why is there opposition to the rating system?

■ In a health-star rating system, introduced in 2014 in Australia and New Zealand, a product is assigned a certain number of stars using a calculator designed to assess positive (e.g., fruit, nut, protein content, etc) and risk nutrients in food (calories, saturated fat, total sugar, sodium). Scientists have said that such a system misrepresents nutrition science and the presence of fruit in a fruit drink juice does not offset the impact of added sugar. Experts say that so far there is no evidence of the rating system impacting consumer behaviour. The stars can also lead to a 'health halo' because of their positive connotation making it harder to identify harmful products. Over 40 global experts have also called the IIM-Ahmedabad study flawed in design and interpretation.

There are many other labelling systems in the world, such as "warning labels" in Chile (which uses black octagonal or stop symbols) and Israel (a red label) for products high in sugar, salt and fat. The 'NutriScore', used in France, presents a coloured scale of A to E, and the Multiple Traffic Light (MTL), used in the U.K. and other countries depict red (high), amber (medium) or green (low) lights to indicate the risk factors. Global studies have shown a warning label is the only format that has led to a positive impact on food and beverage purchases forcing the industry, for example in Chile, to reformulate their products to remove major amounts of sugar and salt.

What are India's plans to avert a wheat crisis?

With procurement dipping, how will the government balance domestic supplies and rise in export demand?

VIKAS VASUDEVA
DIKSHA MUNJAL

Not enough: According to new guidelines, the gap left by wheat will be filled with an increased allocation of rice. • PTI

The story so far: On May 4, the government lowered its wheat production estimates by 5.7% to 105 million tonnes (MT) from the projected 111.32 MT for the crop year ending June. The production is expected to fall on account of unusually warm weather conditions that persisted during March to April in most parts of the key grain-producing States of Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh as well as Uttar Pradesh. Till May 4, wheat procurement in the ongoing winter (rabi) marketing season too had seen a drop, with the Centre procuring 17.5 MT of wheat, which is likely to touch 19.5 MT when the season ends. In the last marketing year, the government had purchased 43.3 MT of wheat from farmers, and this year it had set a target of 44.4 MT. The announcement came around the same time as a report by the World Food Programme, which said the "unfolding war in Ukraine" was likely to "exacerbate the already severe 2022 acute food insecurity forecasts" in countries.

Why has wheat production dwindled?

■ India is the second largest producer of wheat in the world, with China being the top producer and Russia the third largest – Ukraine is the world's eighth largest producer of wheat. After five straight years of a bumper wheat output, India has had to revise downwards its estimated production. Unprecedented heatwaves across the north, west and central parts of the country, and March and April being the hottest in over 100 years, have caused substantial loss to the yield at 6%, with 20% of the wheat grain shrivelling up. Some estimates have pegged the shrivelling as high as 80% of the crop purchased by the government. For instance, according to crop cutting experiments, conducted by the Punjab Agriculture Department every year, the State's yield per hectare could have fallen 5-10% compared to last year's yield. Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey attributed the lower estimates to "early summer" affecting the crop yields in States, especially Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

What about government procurement?

■ This year the government's wheat purchase has seen a dip owing to several reasons from lower yield to higher market prices being offered by private traders. A large quantity of wheat was being bought by traders at a higher rate than the minimum support price (MSP). Private traders have been prompted to buy more wheat from farmers as the price of wheat at the international level has shot up and is expected to rise due to the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. In Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat, farmers are selling to traders-exporters at prices (₹21-24 per kg), which is better than the MSP (rate of ₹20.15 per kg). Also, farmers are holding on to some quantity of wheat, expecting higher prices for their produce in the near future. Mr. Pandey admitted that the substantially low procurement was due to market prices of wheat being higher than the MSP being offered by the government. He gave two other reasons for the low procurement: stocks being held by farmers and traders in anticipation of further price rises, and lower production.

How will this impact the public distribution of grain?

■ Wheat procurement is undertaken by the state-owned Food Corporation of India (FCI) and other agencies at MSP to meet the requirements under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and other welfare schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) introduced during the pandemic. The government has revised the grain allocation under PMGKAY for May to September 2022. According to the new guidelines, the FCI will fill the gap left by wheat with an increased allocation of rice. An additional 5.5 MT rice is being allocated to the States to fill the gap in supplying wheat grain. Mr. Pandey said rice procurement last year was about 60 MT and this year a similar quantity is expected. Under the National Food Security Act (NFSA), he said the annual requirement is roughly about 35 MT. Pointing out that from next year, fortified rice will be distributed to the entire Public Distribution System (PDS), he said with surplus rice stocks, the country is in a comfortable situation.

Will domestic wheat prices be hit?

■ As government wheat procurement has dipped, concerns are being raised about the stability of prices in the country and the availability of grain for internal consumption, which many agri-experts argue should be a priority. An agriculture domain expert and a former member of the Uttar Pradesh Planning Commission, Sudhir Panwar, points out that the government has to ensure that the market price for the domestic consumer is not determined by private players – "this can happen if one or two big business houses are buying chunk of the wheat crop." The key question, according to Mr. Panwar, is in a scenario where private traders start dictating the price in the domestic market, will the buffer stock be used under the Open Market Sale Scheme to control the market price or will it be used for the NFSA and other welfare schemes. The government has dismissed concerns about both prices and stocks, asserting that India is in a comfortable situation with the overall availability of grains and stocks expected to be higher than the minimum requirement for the next one year. Mr. Pandey stated that after meeting the requirement of welfare schemes in the year ahead, on April 1, 2023, India would have stocks of 8 MT of wheat, well above the minimum requirement of 7.5 MT.

Will farmers benefit?

■ Farmers will certainly benefit from the scenario as they are being offered a price above the MSP. Amid the Russia-Ukraine crisis, new markets in countries like Israel, Egypt, Tanzania and Mozambique have opened up for India. However, on the other hand, if private traders continue to buy above MSP, eventually that could stoke inflation. Dr. M.J. Khan, Chairman of the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture, an apex agribusiness services body, opines that more private buying of wheat will help India expand the agri-export basket to new countries, riding the current crisis situation. This trade relationship will stay even when the global crisis is over, which means farmers will get about 10%-15% extra price as market prices are ruling above MSP.

> The government has dismissed concerns about prices and stocks, asserting that India is in a comfortable situation with the overall availability of grain expected to be higher than the minimum requirement for the next one year

What about export plans?

■ Till now, 4 MT wheat has been contracted for export and about 1.1 MT has been exported in April 2022. After Egypt, Turkey has also given approval for the import of Indian wheat. India has been eyeing deals with new export markets in European Union countries too. Compared to record wheat exports of 7.85 MT in the fiscal year 2021-22, the Centre had estimated exports of 12 MT for 2022-23, to cash in on the market rally in global prices following the Ukraine crisis. Global wheat prices rose nearly 50% since the start of this year as supplies from Russia, the number one wheat exporter, and Ukraine, number six, were hit. Despite the crop loss and revision of the output estimate, the Centre maintained that no curbs would be placed on wheat exports and that it was facilitating traders. Market observers estimate exports will be lower than projected earlier at about 10 MT amid low or damaged output.

How is the global supply situation shaping up?

■ In order to meet the gap created by reduced Russian and Ukrainian exports, importers are turning to alternative markets, while wheat-producing countries like India are looking to increase exports. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the export estimates of Brazil, which is traditionally an importer of wheat, is pegged at 2.5 MT, nearly three times its total last year. The South American country has even found new markets, with its wheat exports to West Asian nations jumping over 400%, according to *Reuters*. Argentina, traditionally a big exporter of wheat, too saw a further rise in exports despite lower than usual production.

The USDA, however, says that these increased exports will not be enough to make up for the nearly 30% of global exports hit by the Ukraine crisis.

Why are reproductive rights under threat?

What does a leaked Supreme Court draft on the *Roe vs Wade* case on the right to abortion in the U.S. say?

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

Legal battle: There have been multiple demonstrations in front of the U.S Supreme Court in protest against a possible striking down of *Roe vs Wade*. • REUTERS

The story so far: The Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) has privately voted to strike down the constitutional right to abortion as determined by the landmark *Roe vs Wade* case in 1973, according to a leaked draft opinion from February 2022. The leak, by news outlet *Politico* on May 2, has itself become a subject of profound criticism and a likely criminal inquiry within the highest court in the land. The content has provoked dismay among liberals and pro-choice advocates and jubilation on the part of anti-abortionists. While the opinion is not surprising given that a SCOTUS majority of 6-3 leans and votes conservative, it will likely set off a lengthy series of judicial battles at the state level given that it will, if it formally becomes the law of the land, leave the decision on whether to outlaw abortions to state legislators.

What is the *Roe vs Wade* case?

■ Roe, short for Jane Roe, is the pseudonym for a Texas woman named Norma McCorvey who in 1970 sought to have an abortion when she was five months pregnant, notwithstanding Texas' ban on abortions except to save a mother's life. Wade refers to Henry Wade, the district attorney in Dallas County, Texas, at the time, who was the defendant in the case. The 7-2 majority opinion of the SCOTUS was written on January 22, 1973, by Justice Harry Blackmun, paving the way for the recognition of abortion as a constitutional right in the U.S., effectively striking down a wide range of state-level abortion limitations applied before foetal viability. Foetal viability is the point at which a foetus can survive outside the womb, at the time considered to be around 28 weeks, but today is closer to 23 or 24 weeks owing to advances in medicine and technology.

Based on the *Roe vs Wade* case, the framework of regulations that applied towards the right to abortion required that in the first trimester, almost no limitations could be placed on that right; in the second trimester, only limitations to abortion rights that were aimed at protecting a woman's health were permitted; and in the third trimester, state governments had greater leeway to limit the right to abortion except for cases in which the life and health of the mother were endangered.

However, *Roe vs Wade* was not the last word on abortion rights in the U.S. even before the latest SCOTUS opinion. In the 1992 *Planned Parenthood vs Casey case*, the SCOTUS threw out the so-called trimester framework yet retained the *Roe vs Wade* case's "essential holding," which established women's constitutional right to abortion until foetal viability.

Why is there a possibility of the judgment being overturned?

■ The overturning of the *Roe vs Wade* case has not yet been formally announced and thus not yet a part of settled law, although most legal experts believe it is only a matter of time before it becomes so. It remains to be seen whether the leaked text of the private opinion of the SCOTUS, believed to be authored primarily by Justice Samuel Alito, will be the same as the final version that enters the statute books.

Nevertheless, the conservative majority of the court, to which former President Donald Trump successfully nominated three justices, regarded *Roe vs Wade* to lack any jurisprudential basis within the U.S. Constitution. Hence in the first draft of their opinion, dated February 2022, the justices of the SCOTUS said, "We hold that Roe and Casey must be overruled. The Constitution makes no reference to abortion, and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision... It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives."

What impact will the opinion have if it passes into law?

■ Based on analysis of data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reports have shown that the typical patient seeking an abortion in the U.S. is already a mother, is in her late 20s, has obtained some college education, is relatively poor, is unmarried, is in her first six weeks of pregnancy, is seeking a first abortion, and lives in a Democratic Party-ruled state. At a broad level, therefore, the SCOTUS opinion will disproportionately affect poorer women if it becomes law. For example, in 2014, nearly 50% of women who went in for abortions were below the poverty line, with another 25% said to be relatively close to the poverty line. Reports quoted researchers saying that the growing share of poorer women in the abortion demographic "reflects improved access to effective contraception among higher-earning women, and a recognition of the growing costs of raising children among poorer women. It may also reflect the growing presence of charities that help poor women pay for abortions in states where public programs don't."

> At a broad level, overturning the verdict will disproportionately affect poorer women, say health experts. For example, in 2014, nearly 50% of women who went in for abortions were below the poverty line

However, all is not lost for the pro-choice side of the debate, because even if the SCOTUS successfully strikes down *Roe vs Wade* U.S. President Joe Biden has called upon Congress to pass legislation codifying the right to abortion , which lawmakers have every right to do. Yet, given the 50-50 split of Democratic and Republican Senators on Capitol Hill, it is near impossible to rally together the requisite 60-member supermajority required to defeat a filibuster and pass abortion rights into law in the face of lock-step opposition from conservatives. Democrats are likely pinning their hopes on the November mid-term election sweeping more of their members into the Senate and thus restoring a constitutional right to abortion.

URSULA VON DER LEYEN

The guardian of EU's strategic autonomy

The European bureaucrat has emerged as a personable wartime chief who leads the bloc from the front against Russian aggression

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

G. SAMPATH

In Focus

- A PhD in medicine, Ursula von der Leyen kick-started her political career in Germany by getting elected to Parliament of Lower Saxony in 2003
- Once she became the Federal Minister of Youth and Family Affairs in Angela Merkel's Cabinet in 2005, her political graph rose steadily
- In early 2019, when her political career in Germany appeared to be heading nowhere amid a host of scandals, came the call to head the European Commission

In the second week of April, soon after the Istanbul peace talks between Ukraine and Russia broke down amid reports of the 'Bucha massacre' – an alleged war crime involving abuse and killing of Ukrainian civilians by Russian forces – European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen (63) became one of the first European leaders to visit the Ukrainian city. After seeing the bodies exhumed from a mass grave, she condemned "Russian cruelty" and vowed to speed up Ukraine's membership of the EU – part of a long pattern of visits, statements and tweets through which she has gradually positioned herself as the preeminent guardian of Europe's strategic autonomy in the face of Russian geopolitical overreach.

On May 4, she proposed a phase-out of all Russian crude oil imports within six months and of refined petroleum products by the end of the year. It is the EU's toughest measure yet against Russia. The objective here is not merely to stop the flow of Russian oil into Europe but goes much farther – to prevent Russia from selling the oil meant for Europe to other, non-European markets.

As Ms. von der Leyen elaborated in her address to European legislators, the new ban would also prohibit any firm with a base in the EU from offering "technical assistance, brokering services, financing or financial assistance... transport, including ship-to-ship transfers, to third countries" for crude and petroleum products that originate in Russia. Financing, insurance and shipping of global oil is mostly controlled by European firms. So if these measures – which require the consent of all the 27 member states – get passed, they could throttle Russian attempts to reroute its crude to other markets in Asia.

Against a background of Russia 'weaponising' Europe's dependence on its energy supplies, Ms. von der Leyen's initiative seeks to turn the tables by 'weaponising' Russian dependence on oil revenues. The move is seen as a befitting counter to Russia cutting off gas supplies to Poland and Bulgaria, and with her proposal, Ms. von der Leyen may have stolen the thunder from U.S./NATO in retaliatory measures against Russia. This is unusual.

Of the four major stakeholders in the conflict – Russia, Ukraine, the U.S./NATO, and the EU – Russia and Ukraine have found high voltage personifications in Vladimir Putin and Volodymyr Zelensky, respectively. Popular discourse is replete with parallels likening Mr. Putin to Hitler and Mr. Zelensky's bravado to Winston Churchill's wartime leadership. U.S. President Joe Biden, many say, lacks the charisma to embody the West's crusade in defense of the "rules-based international order". It would now appear that in Ms. von der Leyen, Europe has found a personable wartime chief who leads from the front and is not afraid to venture into unknown territory. But then, as her critics never tire of pointing out, there is also no getting away from the fact that she is, all said and done, an unelected functionary of the EU.

The President of the EC is not directly elected by EU citizens or their representatives (Members of European Parliament) but nominated by the European Council and approved by the European Parliament. In the case of Ms. von der Leyen, it has been widely reported that her appointment, in July 2019, was the outcome of a 'backroom deal' between the heavyweights of the European Council, France and Germany, brokered by Donald Tusk, the then European Council President. When she eventually took charge as the EC's first ever woman President on December 1, 2019, it was a triumph that not many would have expected, given her political trajectory up to that point.

Against a background of Russia 'weaponising' Europe's dependence on its energy supplies, the EU now seeks to 'weaponise' Russian dependence on oil revenues

Early years

In one sense, it could be said that Ms. von der Leyen was born for her current job. She, after all, grew up in Brussels, the seat of the EU bureaucracy, and attended the elite European School. Her father, Ernst Albrecht, was himself a European Commission civil servant who would go on to have a successful political career in Germany, serving as Minister President of Lower Saxony province. But Ms. von der Leyen, who studied economics at the London School of Economics before switching to medicine, seems to have followed her instincts rather than work strictly toward pre-decided career goals.

After getting a PhD in medicine in 1991, she gave up her medical career and followed her husband – a physician hailing from an old aristocratic family of silk merchants – to Stanford where he had joined as a faculty. In America, she became a full-time housewife. In her case, the term 'full-time housewife' merits elaboration: she became a mother of seven children. Germany's fertility rate, incidentally, is 1.54 and is considered a problem.

Ms. Von der Leyen returned to Hanover in Germany in 1996. She began to teach and got involved in local politics. Following her father, she became a member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and kickstarted her political career by getting elected to the Parliament of Lower Saxony in 2003.

Once she became the Federal Minister of Youth and Family Affairs in Angela Merkel's Cabinet in 2005, her political graph rose steadily. Her unstinting loyalty to Ms. Merkel earned her the deputy leadership of the CDU in 2010, and the Defence portfolio in 2013. This was a phase when she was tipped to succeed Ms. Merkel as Germany's Chancellor, and if not that, then take charge as NATO Secretary General.

'Poisoned chalice'

In German politics, however, the defence portfolio is considered a 'poisoned chalice' and Ms. von der Leyen would discover why. She failed to establish rapport with the influencers in the male-dominated military ecosystem. Her tenure was wracked by allegations of corruption and nepotism in the handing out of lucrative contracts to consultants, one of whom was McKinsey, which happened to be the employer of one of her sons. It is widely acknowledged that the battle-readiness of the Bundeswehr deteriorated under her tenure.

Procurement scandals apart, in 2015, German researchers claimed that her doctoral thesis had 43.5% plagiarised content. When the university investigated the allegations, it found that there was indeed plagiarism but let her off the hook on the grounds that intention to deceive could not be proven. These scandals, and her unremarkable performance as Defence Minister, caused a dip in her popularity, and by the time Ms. Merkel announced, in late 2018, her decision not to contest another term, Ms. von der Leyen had dropped out of contention.

In early 2019, when her political career in Germany appeared to be heading nowhere, came the call to head the EC. Interestingly, by then, Ms. von der Leyen's unpopularity was such that when the European Parliament voted to approve her nomination, Germany abstained – and it was the only country to do so. But her candidature got confirmed by a narrow margin (384 of 747 votes, with 374 needed).

Her return to Brussels is a kind of homecoming for the multilingual (she is fluent in French, German and English) daughter of an EC bureaucrat. As the father traced a path from the EU bureaucracy in Brussels to a political career in Germany, the daughter seems to have traversed the same path in reverse – from a political career in Germany to a seat at the table among the EU's power brokers.

For now, with the EU looking to outwit, if not oust, the decidedly macho figure in charge at the Kremlin, it is increasingly Ms. von der Leyen's bold pronouncements that are setting the 'party line' across Europe. Wanting to eliminate Europe's energy dependence on Russia goes hand-in-hand with her stated position that, strangely enough, isn't too different from what Mr. Putin wants: not peace but victory. As she tweeted after proposing the ban on Russian crude, "We want Ukraine to win this war."

SINN FEIN

Historic mandate

Once part of the IRA, the party is set to score its biggest win in Northern Ireland

SRINIVASAN RAMANI

In a historic result in Northern Ireland's assembly elections held this month, the Irish republican Sinn Fein – once the political wing of the Irish Republican Army – emerged as the single largest party with 29% of the first preference votes. The final seat tally was still being calculated in the election as this article went to print. Despite the lack of a final result as yet, it is quite clear that Sinn Fein will emerge as the single largest party in seat terms too in the 90-member assembly.

The party is expected to nominate its deputy leader, Michelle O'Neill, as the 'First minister' (the head of government) in the Northern Ireland executive. Since the 1998 Good Friday Agreement that ended decades of sectarian violence between those favouring the British Union and those seeking an unification with the Republic of Ireland, the executive is a "duumvirate". It is co-ruled by two executives, the First Minister and Deputy First Minister with equal legal powers.

This is a big blow to the unionists who won every election to the assembly in the last 101 years and for the Democratic Union Party (the largest unionist party) in particular that had triumphed in the last 19 years.

Does this mean that the Irish nationalist and democratic socialist Sinn Fein has won a mandate for a rethink on the Irish question? While the DUP had the highest net drop in vote share (-6.7%) since 2017, Sinn Fein gained only a 1.1% increase with the surprise package being the centrist and liberal Alliance party which has taken a neutral position. Sinn Fein itself gained its advantage by focusing on issues related to health care and the costs of living in the province.

Border poll

But that said, this historic mandate for Sinn Fein will allow the party to push the envelope on the need for another "border poll" – a vote on whether Northern Ireland would consider itself part of the U.K. or the Republic of Ireland – in the medium term, as a spokesperson for it acknowledged in remarks after the results were being announced.

The Sinn Fein of today was reconstituted in 1970 after a split from the original organisation that participated in the Irish War of Independence and the Irish Civil War in the early 20th century and which had considerably weakened after the establishment of the Republic of Ireland. During the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland – the period of ethno-nationalist conflict between unionists and the Irish Nationalists – the party got associated with the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA) and was seen as the political wing of the militant outfit. Following the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 and the creation of the Northern Ireland Assembly (also referred to as Stormont), the party has steadily received a sizeable vote share in elections but never finished higher than second place. The 2022 poll results mark a clear first for the party in Northern Ireland.

In the Republic of Ireland, Sinn Fein is a major force already in the opposition, having won in 2020, 37 of the 160 seats in the Dail Eireann (the lower house of Parliament), just one short of the ruling Fianna Fail. Clearly, the party's progressive agenda is allowing it to gain support in both the Republic and in Northern Ireland, despite its chequered past.

Meanwhile, it is unclear if the DUP will, as per the Good Friday Agreement, participate in the joint government with Sinn Fein. In any case, the Irish question has already been complicated by the "Northern Ireland Protocol" that was signed into to the Brexit withdrawal agreement between the U.K. and the EU. The protocol tackled the knotty question of Northern Ireland being part of the EU's single market (and therefore to follow the EU's product standards) by allowing for inspections and checks for products from the rest of the U.K. to be done at Northern Ireland ports instead of the border between Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Protocol has been anathema for the unionists with the DUP's First Minister resigning earlier this year. The party has demanded a revocation of the protocol and could use this as a ploy to decide on the question of the formation of the new government.

It is clear that the Brexit issue has complicated the political equations in Northern Ireland as much as it has in Great Britain with newer contradictions emerging to challenge traditional politics in the country.

JO JOSEPH

The doctor and the party

The cardiologist has been picked as the Left candidate for a bypoll in Kerala

K.S. SUDHI

A large number of people of Kerala first watched Dr. Jo Joseph, an interventional cardiologist, on their TV screens a few years ago when he was rushing out of a helicopter with a blue organ transplant box held firm in his right hand. He was part of a medical team that had successfully carried out a heart transplant in the State, which was keenly followed by millions of Keralites. This week, the images and visuals of Dr. Joseph, a less-known Left co-traveller, wearing a surgical cap and a stethoscope thrown around his neck, and addressing a press conference were beamed live on news channels for a non-medical reason. He was picked up by the CPI(M) to fight a political battle.

Surprising move

In a move that surprised many party insiders and interested onlookers alike, the CPI (M) fielded him as the Left candidate for the coming bypoll in Thrikkakara Assembly Constituency in Ernakulam district. Dr. Joseph, who is a member of the pro-CPI(M) Progressive Doctors Association, will seek popular mandate in the election symbol of the party. He will take on Uma Thomas, the wife of the late legislator from Thrikkakara and Congress leader P.T. Thomas.

Interestingly, Dr. J. Jacob, an orthopaedic surgeon who had unsuccessfully contested as the LDF candidate in the 2021 Assembly polls from Thrikkakara, had been fielded as an independent candidate and allotted the symbol, football.

An earlier article by Dr. Jo Joseph – who has a few published titles to his credit – on the Pink Tide, a political move towards progressive economic and social policies and Left governments in Latin America, and is addressed to the Catholic Church of Kerala, is now being widely circulated on social media from Left-leaning accounts to affirm the Left moorings of the candidate.

Dr. Joseph had criticised the Kerala Church for being instrumental in pushing away the faithful from the Left ideology, whereas it had endeared the people of the Latin American countries to the socialist ideology. He had also written about the socio-political, religious and economic crisis faced by the Christian youth in the State after attending the International World Youth meeting, a confluence of Catholic youth, held in Panama last year.

The 44-year-old, with expertise in coronary and non-coronary interventions, is in charge of the Heart Transplantation programme of a prominent private hospital in Kochi city. Dr. Joseph also brings with him rich experience in endomyocardial biopsies in transplanted hearts, says his medical profile.

Last-minute drama

What makes the selection of the medical practitioner as the candidate peculiar is the last-minute drama involved in the announcement of his candidature. The party leadership sprang a surprise by fielding him a day after a section of the CPI (M) leaders, including some of its legislators from the district, shared the posters depicting a district committee member as the Left candidate. The party tried to save its skin by stating that some of its leaders fell for wrong media reporting on the candidate.

The first media address of the candidate after the CPI (M) leaders formally announced his name stoked up the controversy further. The press conference, held at the private hospital where he was working, was also attended by two top CPI (M) leaders and a priest of the Syro Malabar Church, which owns the hospital, leading to the allegations that the Left candidate was handpicked by the Church, which wields a significant influence in the constituency.

The press conference was followed by public statements by a few priests, who minced no words in criticising what they said was the misuse of the institution of the Church by providing a platform to a candidate contesting the election. They also asserted that the Church shall remain politically neutral. With the Congress-led Opposition too echoing its disapproval on the alleged role of the Church, the Syro Malabar Church was forced to come out with a clarification that it had no role in the selection of the candidate.

The poll scheduled for May 31 will reveal whether the cardiologist was successful in reading the political pulse of the constituency where the controversial K-Rail is believed to be a major poll plank raised by both fronts.

HDFC raises home loan rate by 30 bps

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd. said it had increased its Retail Prime Lending Rate on housing loans – on which its Adjustable Rate Home Loans are benchmarked – by 30 basis points (bps) with effect from May 9. This comes in the wake of the RBI raising the repo rate by 40 bps.

For borrowers with a credit score above 750, the rate has been raised to 7% from 6.7%. For women borrowers with a less than ₹30 lakh loan, the rate has risen to 7.05%, from 6.75%, while for others in the category, the rate has gone up to 7.1%, from 6.8%.

For general borrowers with loans in the ₹30-₹75 lakh range, the rate has risen to 7.35%, from 7.05%.

'Anonymity is innate risk in blockchain'

Sitharaman says use of the technology is imperative but uncertainty is a 'powerful imponderable'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Word of caution: The FM's remarks come ahead of the unveiling of the central bank digital currency (CBDC). • PTI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday flagged anonymity as an 'inherent risk' in blockchain technology and called for precautions in future with the increase in the use of the technology.

The Minister made it clear that using distributed ledger technology (DLT), also called as blockchain, is 'absolutely imperative' and that the government also supported the use of the same.

Her remarks come ahead of the unveiling of the budgetary announcement of the central bank digital currency (CBDC), which is based on blockchain technology and is billed as being similar to the paper currency carried in our wallets. "The anonymity is… one unknown element in this whole thing. The anonymity of the person or whoever or the robot is the one which we have to be absolutely readying ourselves [for] as… a future challenge," Ms. Sitharaman said, addressing an NSDL event.

She said DLT was a 'beautiful' technology that would help in democratisation but flagged anonymity as an 'inherent risk' that "we need to guard ourselves from".

Terming anonymity as a 'powerful imponderable' in the whole equation, Ms. Sitharaman said, "unless we are able to guard ourselves against that anonymous element which can itself pose an inherent risk, we probably will be exposing ourselves much more than we would have ever imagined."

She commended markets regulator SEBI chief Madhabi Puri Buch, who spoke before her at the same event, for "rightly warning us" about the risk of anonymity, and also for advocating DLTs.

Ms. Buch said the authorities did not 'wish to have anonymity in the CBDC', which is set to be introduced during this fiscal year by banking regulator RBI.

As per the central bank, considerable progress has been made regarding the introduction of the CBDC.

Ms. Buch said the strengths of DLTs included transparency, real time information, infinite divisibility and it being a cost-effective medium.

'Shock absorbers'

Ms. Sitharaman said the retail investment journey had transformed in the last 2-3 years, with new demat account openings zooming to 26 lakh per month in FY22 from 12 lakh in FY21, and just 4 lakh a month in FY20.

She said retail investors act as "shock absorbers" as foreign portfolio investors enter and exit the market as per global cues.

Pointing out to the total $4 trillion in custody value held by NSDL, Ms. Sitharaman said the buoyancy in retail account opening was a prime reason for the high asset value.

Shanghai shut: A sell-off by overseas investors has deepened on worries about the impact of COVID lockdowns. • REUTERS

China's reserves fall most in 5-1/2 years amid slowdown fears

Forex reserves fell by $68 bn in April

REUTERS
BEIJING

China's foreign exchange reserves fell by $68 billion in April, the biggest drop in five-and-a-half years, official data showed on Saturday, as the dollar climbed while foreign investors dumped Chinese stocks amid worries about the slowing economy.

The country's foreign exchange reserves – the world's largest – fell to $3.12 trillion last month from $3.188 trillion in March, the biggest monthly drop since November 2016.

Analysts polled by Reuters had expected the reserves to fall to $3.133 trillion in April.

'Valuation effect'

The State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said in a statement that the 2% decline in April reserves from March mainly reflected valuation effect as the dollar gained against other major currencies, and changes of global asset prices.

"In April 2022, China's cross-border funds generally continued the trend of net inflows, and the supply and demand in the domestic foreign exchange market remained basically balanced," the SAFE said.

> **Supply and demand in the domestic foreign exchange market remained basically balanced in April**
> China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE)

The yuan fell 4% against the dollar in April, while the dollar rose 5% in April against a basket of other major currencies.

Overseas investors extended their selling of Chinese shares into April on mounting worries about the impact of prolonged COVID-19 lockdowns and the fallout of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

China's foreign exchange reserves dropped $130 billion in the first four months, the official data showed. They had climbed $33.6 billion in 2021.

China held 62.64 million fine troy ounces of gold at the end of April, unchanged from a month earlier. The value of China's gold reserves fell to $119.73 billion at the end of April from $121.66 billion at the end of the preceding month.

'Tweak cybersecurity breach reporting norms'

New rules may adversely hit firms: ITI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

U.S.-based technology industry body ITI, having global tech firms such as Google, Facebook, IBM and Cisco as its members, has sought a revision in the Indian government's directive on reporting of cybersecurity breach incidents.

ITI said the provisions under the new mandate may adversely impact organisations and undermine cybersecurity in the country.

ITI country manager for India Kumar Deep, in a letter to CERT-In chief Sanjay Bahl dated May 5, has asked for a wider stakeholder consultation with the industry before finalising the directive.

"The directive has the potential to improve India's cybersecurity posture if appropriately developed and implemented, however, certain provisions in the bill, including counterproductive incident reporting requirements, may negatively impact Indian and global enterprises and undermine cybersecurity," Mr. Deep said.

Audi ramps up pre-owned car unit

Firm's move comes in the backdrop of a sharp upsurge in prices of new vehicles

LALATENDU MISHRA
MUMBAI

Balbir Singh Dhillon

German luxury automobile major Audi is ramping up its pre-owned car business Audi Approved Plus to enable buyers in India to upgrade without having to spend on a new luxury car.

"For Audi Approved Plus, we moved from seven facilities in 2020 to 14 in 2021 and now, we are moving to 20 by the end of this year," Balbir Singh Dhillon, head of Audi India, said in an interview.

Explaining the emphasis on this business, he said, "In the last few years, the prices of new cars have continuously gone up and of late, the pressure on car pricing is even more due to the increase in commodity prices, shipment costs and foreign exchange rates".

"It has widened the gap between the non-luxury segment and the luxury segment. When the gap has widened, potential customers fall into this gap and this is where Audi Approved Plus comes into the picture," Mr. Dhillon explained.

With Audi Approved Plus, the company was trying to bridge that gap, he added. Customers for whom affordability of a new car was a challenge at this point in time, they could still experience the luxury segment with the pre-owned car.

Highlighting that between 2020 and 2021 the company's pre-owned car business grew by 39%, he said there had been a 50% jump in the first quarter of 2022 compared with the year-earlier.

To cater to the growth, the company had increased its manpower by 50% between 2020 and 2021 across the country, he said.

Emphasising the growth in the pre-owned car business was consistent, he said organised players were taking the lead in the pre-owned car business as they had brought transparency to the business. The company, Mr. Dhillon said, had increased its investments in the Audi Approved Plus business by 30% in 2021 compared with 2020.

'Supply constraint'

"We have more than 150 cars available on our portal across the country," he added. A large part of the demand for the luxury pre-owned car segment was in the ₹20 lakh-₹1 crore price bucket, he said, adding, "The challenge we face is the supply of pre-owned cars as the demand is much more than what we are able to get from our customers".

He said during the pandemic, the ownership periods had become longer and people were not selling their cars as frequently.

CG Power plans to make motors for EVs: MD

Firm rules out foray into batteries

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

CG Power and Industrial Solutions Ltd. (CGPISL) has accorded priority for making motors for EVs and has started talking to some existing players.

"This is certainly a priority area for us," MD N. Srinivasan said on an analysts' call. "We continue to work to see how we can meet the requirements for the electric vehicles," he added.

Talks underway

Mr. Srinivasan said company officials were in talks with some existing players to explore how they could develop motors for electric vehicles. At the same time, he also emphatically ruled out getting into manufacturing batteries for EVs.

"We are talking to a lot of people. We are also doing some development work. Nothing concrete has come to disclose or talk," he said.

He also informed that the company had secured an order relating to Vande Bharat trains. He did not elaborate.

"Going forward, when we establish our credentials, we will be ready and fit for participating in the tenders after two years," the company's MD said.

"Then, we could be in a position to fight against all our competitors who are major players such as Alstom and Siemens."

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग कोटा

क्रमांक: 307 | दिनांक: 28.04.2022

निविदा सूचना संख्या 03/2022-23

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अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता,
सा.नि.वि. संभाग कोटा

डीआईपीआर/सी/6284/2022

Don't control micronutrient prices: IMMA

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The association for micro fertilizer makers IMMA on Saturday hailed the proposed bill on plant nutrition management to regulate the sector, but also urged the government not to introduce a price control mechanism for micronutrients and speciality products.

The Indian Micro Fertilizers Manufacturers Association (IMMA) said in a statement that it welcomed the draft Integrated Plant Nutrition Management (IPNM) Bill 2022 which is aimed at regulating the micro fertilizer sector.

The IMMA said the aim of the proposed bill should be to promote ease of doing business.

'Want an auto scrapping unit near every city'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Saturday said his aim was to develop at least one automobile scrapping facility within 150 km from each city centre, while asserting that the country had the potential to become a vehicle scrapping hub for the entire South Asian region.

Speaking at a Material Recycling Association of India event here, Mr. Gadkari said: "India has potential to become a vehicle scrapping hub of the entire South Asian region. We can import a large number of old vehicles from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka for scrapping in our country".

Date of NIT: 27-04-2022

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
Email:biddingcell@rajasthan.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 10B of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, its subsequent amendments and in accordance with the Mineral (Auction) Rules, 2015 as amended from time to time notified there under, the Government of Rajasthan has notified the following mineral block for the purpose of grant of Mining Lease for iron ore and hereby invites bids in digital format only from eligible bidders through electronic auction.

The details of Mineral block and last date of submission of bid is as summarized below:-

S. No.	Block	Lease	Start date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Last date of Sale of Tender Document on MSTC website	Bid Due date and Time
1	Nagaria Block, Tehsil Delwara, District Rajsamand for manganese ore (Block lapsed under 10A (2)(B))	Mining Lease	27-04-2022	12-05-2022 upto 2400 Hrs (IST)	1-06-2022 upto 1300 Hrs (IST)

The block is being put up for first attempt of auction. The interested and eligible bidders, upon registration on MSTC website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp> will obtain login ID and Password. After successful registration, the eligible bidder can purchase the Tender Document online on payment of the tender fee of Rs. 2,00,000/- and can participate in the e-auction process.

The GST at the rate of 18% is applicable on the purchase of tender document. The GST applicable is to be submitted by the prospective bidder itself and the copy of receipt is to be attached with the technical bid. The prospective bidder shall be solely responsible for remitting the GST as per applicable law and statutory liability in thi regard will be responsibility of prospective bidder and no liability whatsoever shall be borne by the DMGR/MSTC.

Detailed terms and conditions, deadlines etc. for participation in the electronic auction are provided in the Tender Document. The Model Tender Document and the Mineral Block summary is available free of cost in electronic form and can be downloaded from the website of MSTC Ltd.<http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>; and Department of Mines & Geology < www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in > for the purpose of information only. Timelines, notifications, updates and other details for the e-auction process are available on the website of <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp>.

Any revision, clarification, addendum, corrigendum, time extension, etc. to the above documents will be hosted on website <http://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/mlcl/index.jsp> ; and < www.mines.rajasthan.gov.in> only and no separate notifications shall be issued in the press.

The Auction process of this block shall remain subjected to the decision of Honorable High Court in S.B. Civil Writ petition no. 458/2022.

Director
Department of Mines & Geology
Rajasthan, Udaipur

DIPR/C/6220

All-round show takes LSG to the top

de Kock, Hooda and Stoinis help Lucknow post 176 before Avesh, Holder deliver

IPL 2022

AMOL KARHADKAR
PUNE

Sunil Narine shone with the ball. Andre Russell was explosive with the bat. Still, its poor record in the PowerPlay continued to haunt Kolkata Knight Riders as it slid to a crushing defeat against Lucknow Super Giants in the IPL on Saturday.

The 75-run victory at the MCA Stadium propelled Super Giants to the top while Knight Riders suffered a big blow to its playoff hopes.

Entering the game with the worst batting PowerPlay record, Knight Riders would have hoped for its top-three to at least survive the first six overs in quest of a target of 177. But the batters wilted against Super Giants' pace quartet.

Mohsin Khan, Dushmantha Chameera and Jason Holder were too hot to handle up front. Left-armer Mohsin started off with a wicket-maiden to set the tone. Chameera rattled Shreyas Iyer with the short-ball ploy and Holder adopted the same strategy to see the back of Aaron Finch to leave Knight Riders reeling at 25 for three at the end of the PowerPlay.

When Avesh Khan forced Nitish Rana to play onto the stumps in the next over, the game was all but sealed.

Then came the Russell assault, which gave the 17,000-strong crowd something to cheer about. But the West Indian's five sixes – including three in a Holder over – were far from enough for Knight Riders.

And when a diving Holder caught a skier to send back Russell off Avesh in the 13th over, it was the final nail.

Earlier, Knight Riders tasted immediate success after choosing to bowl. Super Giants captain K.L. Rahul was run out without facing a ball in the opening over, courtesy a direct hit from Shreyas. But Quinton de Kock – guilty of sending Rahul back after calling for a quick single – didn't let the incident affect him. Everything that was pitched short was dispatched in the arc between square-leg and midwicket, along the ground or over the fence.

At the other end, Deepak Hooda played some exquisite cover drives. Despite scoring just two in the opening over, Super Giants raced to 66 for one in six overs. Though Knight Riders pulled things back, conceding just 76 in the next 12 overs, Marcus Stoinis and Jason Holder smashed five sixes off Shivam Mavi in the 19th over to tilt the balance in Super Giants' favour.

Powerplay: de Kock flayed the Knight Riders attack, scoring a 29-ball 50 with four fours and three sixes. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Next assignment

KKR: May 9 vs. **MI**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

LSG: May 10 vs. **GT**
MCA Stadium, 7.30 p.m.

SCOREBOARD

LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS
Quinton de Kock c Mavi b Narine 50 *(29b, 4x4, 3x6)*, K.L. Rahul run out 0 *(0b)*, Deepak Hooda c Shreyas b Russell 41 *(27b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Krunal Pandya c Finch b Russell 25 *(27b, 2x4)*, Ayush Badoni (not out) 15 *(18b)*, Marcus Stoinis c Shreyas b Mavi 28 *(14b, 1x4, 3x6)*, Jason Holder c Rinku b Southee 13 *(4b, 2x6)*, Dushmantha Chameera run out 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-2): 4; Total (for seven wkts. in 20 overs): 176.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Rahul, 0.5 ov), 2-73 (de Kock, 7.2), 3-107 (Hooda, 12.4), 4-122 (Krunal, 14.5), 5-160 (Stoinis, 18.4), 6-175 (Holder, 19.4), 7-176 (Chameera, 19.6).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Southee 4-0-28-1, Mavi 4-0-50-1, Narine 4-0-20-1, Anukul 3-0-27-0, Harshit 2-0-27-0, Russell 3-0-22-2.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
B. Indrajith c Badoni b Mohsin 0 *(6b)*, Aaron Finch c de Kock b Holder 14 *(14b, 1x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Badoni b Chameera 6 *(9b, 1x4)*, Nitish Rana b Avesh 2 *(11b)*, Rinku Singh c Krunal b Bishnoi 6 *(10b)*, Andre Russell c Holder b Avesh 45 *(19b, 3x4, 5x6)*, Sunil Narine c Krunal b Holder 22 *(12b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Anukul Roy c de Kock b Avesh 0 *(2b)*, Shivam Mavi (not out) 1 *(2b)*, Tim Southee c Avesh b Holder 0 *(1b)*, Harshit Rana run out 2 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-2): 3; Total (in 14.3 overs): 101.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Indrajith, 0.6), 2-11 (Shreyas, 3.4), 3-23 (Finch, 5.4), 4-25 (Nitish, 6.5), 5-69 (Rinku, 11.1), 6-85 (Russell, 12.2), 7-85 (Anukul, 12.4), 8-99 (Narine, 14.1), 9-99 (Southee, 14.2).

SUPER GIANTS BOWLING
Mohsin 3-1-6-1, Chameera 3-0-14-1, Avesh 3-1-19-3, Holder 2.3-0-31-3, Bishnoi 3-0-30-1.

Toss: KKR.
MoM: Avesh.
LSG won by 75 runs.

Innings scan

LSG		KKR
44	Dots	49
11	Fours	8
10	Sixes	6
66/1	PP	25/3
8.80	RR	6.96

Young Jaiswal controls Royals' chase

Hetmyer and Chahal also play their part in the six-wicket victory over Kings

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MUMBAI

Yashasvi Jaiswal is regarded highly at Rajasthan Royals. He is one of the three players it retained ahead of the mega auction, Sanju Samson and Jos Buttler being the others. That is elite company.

On Saturday at the Wankhede Stadium, the 20-year-old opener showed why the franchise has so much faith in him.

Superb knock

His superb knock (68, 41b, 9x4, 2x6) led Royals' chase of the challenging total put up by Punjab Kings.

Royals went past the Kings' 189 for five with two balls to spare for a six-wicket win. The result knocked Mumbai Indians out of the competition.

If Jaiswal gave the start and carried the innings through the middle overs, the finish was provided by Shimron Hetmyer, who smashed an unbeaten 31 off just 16 balls (3x4, 2x6).

Arshdeep Singh, the left-arm seamer who chokes them at the death, ensured Kings was still in the game going into the final over.

He gave away just three runs and also claimed the wicket of Devdutt Padikkal, who hit a full toss straight to Mayank Agarwal at extra-cover after making 31 (32b, 3x4). After Kagiso Rabada had gone for 16 in the previous over, Kings needed a tight one from Arshdeep. He provided exactly that.

Eight were required in the final over from Rahul Chahar, who began with a wide. The issue was almost settled off the first legal delivery of the over, as Hetmyer hit him hard and handsomely over the long-on fence.

It was the first win chasing for Royals this season. The win is also significant because it wasn't actually fashioned by Buttler, who nevertheless had made a 16-ball 30 (5x4, 1x6). For a side that had been depending too much on the Orange Cap holder, the important runs from the other batters must be heartening.

The team management must also be glad that it brought Jaiswal back; his last game was over a month ago.

It truly was quality batting from the left-hander, who ensured that the asking rate was under control right through.

Earlier, the Kings total was built on two fine knocks at either end of the innings.

Jonny comes good

Jonny Bairstow (56, 40b, 8x4, 1x6) finally scored a fifty this season, while Jitesh Sharma played a blinder at the death, knocking off 38 from just 18 balls (1x4, 2x6).

Bairstow became one of the three victims for Yuzvendra Chahal, who strengthened his hold on the Purple Cap with a fine spell (4-0-28-3) and helped his team move closer to the playoffs.

Mettle on display: Jaiswal showed why he is regarded highly at Royals. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Jonny Bairstow lbw b Chahal 56 *(40b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Buttler b R. Ashwin 12 *(16b, 2x4)*, Bhanuka Rajapaksa b Chahal 27 *(18b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Mayank Agarwal c Buttler b Chahal 15 *(13b, 2x4)*, Jitesh Sharma (not out) 38 *(18b, 4x4, 2x6)*, Liam Livingstone b Prasidh 22 *(14b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Rishi Dhawan (not out) 5 *(2b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-3, w-10, nb-1): 14; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 189.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-47 (Shikhar Dhawan, 5.1 overs), 2-89 (Rajapaksa, 10.2), 3-118 (Mayank, 14.2), 4-119 (Bairstow, 14.4), 5-169 (Livingstone, 18.5).

ROYALS BOWLING
Boult 4-1-36-0, Prasidh 4-0-48-1, Kuldeep Sen 4-0-42-0, R. Ashwin 4-0-32-1, Chahal 4-0-28-3.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal c Livingstone b Arshdeep 68 *(41b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Jos Buttler c Rajapaksa b Rabada 30 *(16b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Sanju Samson c Shikhar Dhawan b Rishi Dhawan 23 *(12b, 4x4)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Mayank b Arshdeep 31 *(32b, 3x4)*, Shimron Hetmyer (not out) 31 *(16b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Riyan Parag (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (w-7): 7; Total (for four wkts. in 19.4 overs): 190.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-46 (Buttler, 3.6), 2-85 (Samson, 8.1), 3-141 (Jaiswal, 14.2), 4-182 (Padikkal, 18.5).

PUNJAB KINGS BOWLING
Sandeep 4-0-41-0, Rabada 4-0-50-1, Arshdeep 4-0-29-2, Rishi Dhawan 3-0-25-1, Rahul Chahar 3.4-0-39-0, Livingstone 1-0-6-0.

Toss: PBKS; **MoM:** Jaiswal.
RR won by six wickets with two balls to spare.

Innings scan

PBKS		RR
43	Dots	36
20	Fours	24
7	Sixes	5
48/1	PP	67/1
9.45	RR	9.66

Next assignment

RR: May 11 vs. **DC**
DY Patil, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: May 13 vs. **RCB**
Brabourne, 7.30 p.m.

SRH looks to break a pattern

RCB hopes to erase bitter memories of last encounter

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MUMBAI

Sunrisers Hyderabad is momentum's child. When Kane Williamson's men win, they keep winning. When they lose, they keep losing.

After winning five games in a row, they have lost the next three. Their last victory came against Royal Challengers Bangalore. The teams face off again, on Sunday at the Wankhede Stadium.

Royal Challengers is in the top four with 12 points, while Sunrisers, on 10 points, will be desperate to break into it as the race for playoff berths hots up.

When the sides met a fortnight ago, Royal Challengers was bundled out for 68. Most of the damage was done by left-arm seamers Marco Jansen and T. Natarajan, who took three wickets each.

Since then, the South African has become very expensive while the Tamil Nadu bowler has been injured. Umran Malik, too, was costly in the last two matches, but his explosive pace has also won games for Sunrisers.

The captain's form with the bat has been a worry, but Abhishek Sharma, Aiden Markram and Nicholas Pooran have shone. Like Williamson, RCB's batting superstar Virat Kohli also has had a season to forget.

But the likes of skipper Faf du Plessis and Dinesh Karthik have had good outings with the bat.

Pooran. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

Capitals push for playoffs spot

Unsettled Super Kings will try to spoil the party

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE
NAVI MUMBAI

A contest against an unsettled opponent in Chennai Super Kings on Sunday offers Delhi Capitals a great chance to string two wins in a row for the first time this season and make a big push for a spot in the playoffs.

Capitals will be buoyed by its recent win against Sunrisers Hyderabad, which proved a tough opponent.

The result was attained despite a lacklustre performance from Kuldeep Yadav, who has become a talisman for his team.

The left-arm unorthodox spinner will have a role to play on Sunday at the D.Y. Patil Stadium as the pitch may be two-paced.

Capitals has been effective as a batting group.

David Warner has made it to the top-5 run-getters after a determined 92 this week and there have been small but important contributions from Rishabh Pant, Prithvi Shaw, Rovman Powell and Axar Patel.

According to Super Kings head coach Stephen Fleming, his team has been poor in all facets of the game this season. It is paying the price for a lightweight bowling attack.

The batting has started to become more reliable – Ambati Rayudu and Ruturaj Gaikwad are now showing their prowess. But the bowling has to step up against Capitals to secure e a much-needed win.

Warner. • SPORTZPICS/IPL

TODAY'S MATCHES

WANKHEDE, 3.30 P.M.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 20
SRH 12 | RCB 8
Previous meeting: SRH won by nine wickets, 2022

DY PATIL, 7.30 P.M.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 26
CSK 16 | DC 10
Previous meeting: CSK won by four wickets, 2021
STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD)

POINTS TABLE

Teams	M	W	L	Pts	NRR
Lucknow Super Giants	11	8	3	16	0.703
Gujarat Titans	11	8	3	16	0.120
Rajasthan Royals	11	7	4	14	0.326
Royal Challengers Bangalore	11	6	5	12	-0.444
Delhi Capitals	10	5	5	10	0.641
Sunrisers Hyderabad	10	5	5	10	0.325
Punjab Kings	11	5	6	10	-0.231
Kolkata Knight Riders	11	4	7	8	-0.304
Chennai Super Kings	10	3	7	6	-0.431
Mumbai Indians (E)	10	2	8	4	-0.725

After the LSG-KKR match on May 7 *E: Eliminated*

Pujara scores fourth successive century

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HOVE

Cheteshwar Pujara scored a fourth successive hundred for Sussex against a quality Middlesex attack that had Pakistan international Shaheen Shah Afridi in its ranks.

Pujara reached his three-figure mark in 133 balls with 13 boundaries and two sixes.

He completed 500 runs for the season in only four games. At stumps on the third day, Pujara was batting on 125 (149b, 16x4, 2x6) as Sussex reached 236 for three in its second innings. Middlesex scored 358 in its first essay in reply to Sussex's 392.

Alcaraz continues to soar, takes out Djokovic

Spanish teenager backs up his win over Nadal with gritty victory over World No. 1

MADRID OPEN

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MADRID

Rafael Nadal one day. Novak Djokovic the other.

The list of the victims of Spanish teenager Carlos Alcaraz keeps growing. And so does the hype over tennis' newest sensation.

After defeating his idol Nadal in the quarterfinals on Friday, the 19-year-old Alcaraz rallied to beat top-ranked Djokovic 6-7(5), 7-5, 7-6(5) after more than 3-1/2 hours to reach the Madrid Open final on Saturday.

Alcaraz converted his third match point to clinch the victory in front of a raucous home crowd on the Caja Magica centre court. A win on Sunday will give Alcaraz his fourth title this season, the most for any player.

Alcaraz, the youngest player in the top-10 since Nadal in 2005, has won this year in Miami, Rio de Janeiro and Barcelona.

Felling another giant: Alcaraz finished on the right side of a marathon encounter against Djokovic. • AFP

- At 19 years and 3 days, Alcaraz is the youngest to beat a World No. 1 since Nadal defeated Federer in the 2005 French Open semifinal
- Alcaraz is the first player to beat Nadal and Djokovic at the same clay-court event and also the youngest to achieve the feat anywhere

He beat Nadal for the first time on Friday, and won over Djokovic in their first match.

The results:

Semifinals: Alcaraz bt Djokovic 6-7(5), 7-5, 7-6(5).

Quarterfinals: Tsitsipas bt Rublev 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; Zverev bt Auger-Aliassime 6-3, 7-5.

Brighton gives Man United a hiding

Chelsea drops points against Wolves; Watford relegated after loss to Palace

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
BRIGHTON

Manchester United's dismal season hit a new low as Brighton condemned it to a 4-0 defeat that ended its hopes of finishing in the Premier League's top four on Saturday.

United has endured a host of humiliations in one of its most embarrassing seasons for decades and this lacklustre loss was among the very worst. Ralf Rangnick's side was routed by goals from Moises Caicedo, Marc Cucurella, Pascal Gross and Leandro Trossard.

Sixth placed United is certain to miss out on the Champions League for only the fifth time in 30 seasons.

Conor Coady struck deep into time added on to snatch a 2-2 draw for Wolverhampton Wanderers away at Chelsea as the Londoners' prospective new owners looked on from the Stamford Bridge stands. Watford was relegated after a 1-0 defeat to Crystal Palace.

The final nail: Trossard rubbed salt into Manchester United's wounds with Brighton's fourth goal. • REUTERS

The results: Premier League: Brentford 3 (Jansson 13, Wissa 14, Ajer 79) bt Southampton 0; Chelsea 2 (Lukaku 56-pen, 58) drew with Wolves 2 (Trincao 79, Coady 90); Crystal Palace 1 (Zaha 31-pen) bt Watford 0; Brighton 4 (Caicedo 15, Cucurella 49, Gross 57, Trossard 60) bt Manchester United 0.

Serie A: Torino 0 lost to Napoli 1 (Fabian Ruiz 73).

Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 2 (Rutter 22, Baumgartner 36) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Schick 34, 76, Diaby 73, Alario 90+1); Greuther Fuerth 1 (Ngankam 70) lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Brandt 27, 72, Passlack 77).

On Friday: Serie A: Inter Milan 4 (Romagnoli og 40, Martinez 45, 64, Sanchez 90+4) bt Empoli 2 (Pinamonti 5, Asllani 28); Genoa 2 (Gudmundsson 87, Criscito 90+6-pen) bt Juventus 1 (Dybala 48).

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1, MTV & Jio TV, 5.30 a.m.
BWF 2022: Thomas & Uber Cup, Sports 18 & Voot Select, 7.30 a.m.
IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 3.30 p.m. & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18, Voot Select, Vh1 & Jio TV, 4 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
La Liga: Sports 18, MTV, Voot Select & Jio TV, 5.30 p.m., 7.45 p.m., 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 6.30 p.m. & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 7 p.m., 9 p.m. & 11 p.m.
F1: (Miami GP), SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1 a.m. (Monday)

IN BRIEF

Embiid returns from injury to inspire Sixers

LOS ANGELES

Joel Embiid returned from injury and the re-energised Philadelphia 76ers beat Miami Heat 99-79 on Friday to claw back to 2-1 in their NBA playoff series.

The results: EC: Philadelphia 99 bt Miami 79 (Miami leads 2-1); **WC:** Dallas 103 bt Phoenix 94 (Phoenix leads 2-1). AFP

Ghosal goes down fighting in semifinals

NEW YORK

Saurav Ghosal, seeded seven, went down fighting to second-seeded Diego Elias of Peru 3-11, 11-9, 11-6, 5-11, 3-11 in the semifinals of the J.P. Morgan Tournament of Champions squash championships here on Friday.

Yuki-Ramkumar duo loses in semifinals

NEW DELHI

Yuki Bhambri and Ramkumar Ramanathan lost 7-5, 1-6, [10-7] to the French team of Titouan Droguet and Kyrian Jacquet in the doubles semifinals of the €90,280 Challenger tennis tournament in Aix-en-Provence, France. They collected 36 ATP points and €1,840.

Sindhu, Lakshya lead Indian campaign

Men yet to score a medal, women have two bronzes to date

THOMAS & UBER

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BANGKOK

The focus will be on double Olympic medallist P.V. Sindhu and World Championships bronze winner Lakshya Sen as the Indian badminton contingent resumes its quest for a medal at the Thomas and Uber Cup beginning here on Sunday.

Falling short

No Indian men's team has ever won a medal in the Thomas Cup, having failed to reach the semifinal even once.

But the women had two semifinal finishes in successive editions of the Uber Cup to clinch two bronze medals in 2014 and 2016.

Last year, both the men's and women's teams bowed out in the quarterfinals.

Spearhead: Indian expectations rest once again on Sindhu. • AFP

This time, India boasts of a strong men's team comprising World No. 9 Lakshya, No. 11 K. Srikanth and No. 23 H.S. Prannoy. World No. 9 pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will lead th edoubles challenge, while M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila and Krishna Prasad Garaga & Vishnuvardhan Goud Panjala provide support.

The Indian men open against Germany in Group C, which also comprises Chinese Taipei and Canada.

Setback

The women's team, however, was hit by the withdrawals of the doubles pair of N. Sikki Reddy & Ashwini Ponnappa and Gayatri Gopichand.

The onus will thus be on the shoulders of upcoming doubles players Tanisha Crasto, Shruti Mishra, Simran Singhi, Ritika Thaker and Treesa Jolly.

In the singles, World No. 7 Sindhu will have to do the heavy lifting as the other two singles players Aakarshi Kashyap and young Unnati Hooda lack experience.

With some key players missing, it will be tough for the women's team to get past Group D members South Korea, Canada and the United States.

Jharkhand hammers hapless Puducherry

MP and Haryana coast to victories

HOCKEY

SPORTS BUREAU

Domestic heavyweight Jharkhand decimated Puducherry with a 36-0 victory to signal its intent on the second day of the 12th Women's Hockey India Senior National Championship in Bhopal on Saturday.

Betan Dungdung struck 10 times for the winner in the Pool E game while Albela Rani Toppo added seven and Pramila Soreng got four. The goal-fest began early on when Soreng found the net in the very first minute while Roshni Dungdung rounded it up in the 59th minute.

Also winning was defending champion and host Madhya Pradesh with a 4-0 win against Bihar in Pool A while last edition's runner-up Haryana hit the ground running with an 18-0 win against Bengal in Pool B.

The results: Pool A: Madhya Pradesh 4 (Prashu Singh Parihar 2, Jyoti Pal, Seema Verma) bt Bihar 0; **Pool B:** Haryana 18 (Amandeep Kaur 5, Soni 3, Bharti Saroha 3, Tannu 2, Ekta Kaushik 2, Sonia, Balwinder Verma, Simranjeet Kaur) bt Bengal 0. **Pool C:** Punjab 9 (Navjot Kaur 3, Navpreet Kaur, Kirandeep Kaur, Jotika Kalsi, Sarabdeep Kaur, Chandanpreet Kaur, Mahima) bt Tripura 0.
Pool D: Maharashtra 2 (Akansha Singh, Chaitrali Gawde) bt Uttarakhand 0.
Pool E: Jharkhand 36 (Betan Dungdung 10, Albela Rani Toppo 7, Pramila Soreng 5, Fulmani Bhengra 4, Roshni Dungdung 3, Edlin Bage 3, Reshma Soreng 2, Dipti Toppo, Nirali Kujur) bt Puducherry 0.

Sable breaks 5,000m National record

Eclipses Bahadur's long-standing mark

ATHLETICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Top Indian runner Avinash Sable smashed the 30-year-old men's 5,000m National record at the Sound Running Track Meet at San Juan Capistrano, California, USA.

Sable, who also holds the National record in his pet event, 3,000m steeplechase and competed in the Tokyo Olympics, clocked 13 minutes, 25.65 seconds while finishing 12th. Norway's Tokyo Olympics 1,500m gold winner Jakob Ingebrigtsen won the race in 13:02.03.

The 27-year-old broke Bahadur Prasad's long-standing record of 13:29.70 set in Birmingham in 1992. Sable, thus, broke the second longest-standing National record of Shivnath Singh in marathon (2:12:00) which has stood for 44 years since 1978.

Sable. • TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

Sable also holds the half marathon (21.0975km) National record of 1:00:30 which he had set in 2020 while winning gold in the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon.

Santiago Nieva steps down as HPD

Played an important role in fine-tuning training pattern

BOXING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Santiago Nieva has stepped down from his role as the Indian team's high performance director, according to a statement issued by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) on Saturday.

He will now be the head coach of the Australian national boxing team.

"Indian boxing has benefited immensely with Santiago's presence," said BFI president Ajay Singh.

Nieva said: "I have had an amazing five years working along with the BFI and the talented boxers of the nation. I believe Indian boxing has great potential and it will continue to grow."

Nieva, who took charge of the national team in 2017, primarily worked with the men boxers. He played an important role in fine-tuning the training pattern and finding training bases abroad, where the boxers got opportunities of good sparring and competitions.

Santiago. • TWITTER

> **"I have had an amazing five years working along with the BFI. I believe Indian boxing has great potential**

Good results

The Indian boxers produced good results in the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2019 World championships (where India gave its best ever showing with Amit Panghal landing a silver and Manish Kaushik a bronze) and other high level competitions during his tenure.

Nieva's role was under the scanner after the dismal performance of the Indian men in the Tokyo Olympics, where the country had highest-ever participation (nine boxers, including five men). He waited for a few months before getting a one-year contract.

Italian Raffaele Bergamasco, who was the high performance director for women boxers, left earlier as his contract was not renewed after the Olympics. Lovlina Borgohain was the lone Indian boxer to win a medal in the Tokyo Games.

Deshwal wins men's 10m air pistol gold

DEAFLYMPICS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India won its second gold medal in shooting at the ongoing 24th Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, with Abhinav Deshwal claiming the men's 10m air pistol title.

The 15-year-old from Roorkee, Uttarakhand, was tied with silver winning Ukranian Oleksii Lazebnyk at 234.2 points apiece at the end of the 24-shot final, before winning gold in a shoot-off where he shot a 10.3 to his opponent's 9.7.

Chinese Taipei's Hsu Ming-Jui won the bronze.

Abhinav made the top eight final round after finishing second in the 60-shot qualification round with a score of 575 out of 600.

He was tied on points there too with Kim Kihyeon, but the Korean topped on account of more inner 10s.

Shubham Vashist, the second Indian in the field, also made it to the finals, finishing sixth with a score of 563. He bowed out in the same position in the finals as well.

Gukesh moves closer to hat-trick

Arjun slips to the second spot

CHESS ROUND-UP

SPORTS BUREAU

D. Gukesh inched closer to completing a hat-trick of titles after beating Julien Song (France) in the eighth round of the Chessables Sunway International chess tournament in Punta Prima, Spain, on Friday.

The 68-move victory with white pieces gave Gukesh (6.5 points) a half-point lead over three nearest rivals. The 15-year-old plays senior compatriot K Sasikiran (5.5) in the ninth and penultimate round.

Fourth seed Gukesh, winner of the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open last month, started the day in joint lead with Spaniards Latasa Jaime Santos and Jimenez Jose Fernando Cuenca.

Much-needed

After Santos and Cuenca drew their games, Gukesh went on to convert his advantage into a much-needed victory. Currently, Santos, Cuenca and Armenia's Shant Sargsyan share the second spot at six points.

Second seed Sasikiran drew with fifth-seeded Armenian Haik Martirosyan and Soham Das (5) fought back to hold Georgian Nino Batsiashvili.

Meanwhile in Malmo, Sweden, Arjun Erigaisi (2.5 points) slipped to the second spot following a 39-move draw with local hope Nils Grandelius after four rounds of the Tepe Sigeman round-robin chess tournament on Friday.

Only decisive game

For the third day in succession, there was only one decisive game, where USA's Hans Moke Niemann (3 points) defeated UAE's Saleh Salem in 43 moves to become the leader.

The results (fourth round): Arjun Erigaisi (2.5) drew with Nils Grandelius (Swe, 2).

Saleh Salem (UAE, 1.5) lost to Hans Moke Niemann (USA, 3).

Alexie Shirov (Esp, 1.5) drew with Michael Adams (Eng, 2).

David Navara (Cze, 1.5) drew with Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 2).

Chelsea sale sealed

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LONDON

Chelsea will be sold to a consortium fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly, ending 19 years of ownership and lavish investment by Roman Abramovich until the Russian oligarch was sanctioned and forced to offload the Premier League club over the war in Ukraine.

The sale price of $3.1 billion for the reigning FIFA Club World Cup winner and 2021 European champion is the most lucrative-ever for a sports team worldwide but Abramovich cannot receive the proceeds.

A further $2.2 billion has been committed to invest in Chelsea's teams and stadiums.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sanjai shines in HAL's win

Sanjai Rai's brace was instrumental in HAL FC's 3-0 win over Postal Department FC in the BDFA A-division league championship, on Saturday.

The results:
HAL 3 (Sanjai Rai 5, 10, Johny Kom 79) bt Postal Dept. 0; AGORC 2 (Jai Kumar 5, Jones Antony 79) bt Parikrama 0; Rebels 2 (Zonunmawia 32, Zobo Emmanuel Ebenezer 43) bt South United 0; BTM 2 (Akshay Kumar Dosapati 21, Chirag Chinnappa Pandanda 80+5) bt Bangalore Gunners 1 (Sanjeevi 56).

Sahu's five-for scripts PESCA's win

Atharv A. Sahu's five-wicket haul (five for eight) helped PESCA register a 35-run win over MCA in an under-12 category match of the Tiger Cup cricket tournament on Saturday. For MCA, Prathyush Shetty's five for 15 went in vain.

The scores:
U-14: MCA 114/9 in 22 overs (Jayan 51, Nischal R. Bhat 28, Abhinav Nag 3/19) lost to 117/5 in 20.3 overs (Adhrit Rao 35).

U-12: PESCA 103/6 in 22 overs (Faheem 25, Prathyush Shetty 5/15) bt MCA 68/9 in 22 overs (Atharv A. Sahu 5/8).

Hockey trials

Hockey Karnataka will conduct trials on May 10 at the Hockey Stadium to select the State junior men's team for the upcoming Hockey India Junior Men's National (Kovilpatti, Tamil Nadu, May 17 to 28). Those born on or after January 1, 2003 are eligible.

Hamilton slams FIA's jewellery crackdown

Tongue-lashing: Lewis Hamilton says he's willing to sit out of races protesting FIA's new rule • REUTERS

MOTORSPORTS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MIAMI GARDENS

Seven-time Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton protested the FIA's crackdown on body piercings by showing up at the Miami Grand Prix wearing every piece of jewellery he could fit on his body and suggesting he was willing to sit out races over the issue.

"I couldn't get any more jewellery on today," he said.

The FIA on Thursday tightened its ban on non-regulatory underwear and body piercings when new race director Niels Wittich issued a bulletin that makes the rule part of official mutineering, meaning such choices are subject to review by race officials.

Four-time champion Sebastian Vettel said he thought FIA was being petty and wondered if the rule was aimed at Hamilton, the 37-year-old Mercedes driver from Britain. Vettel also appeared to take exception to the underwear policing and walked through the paddock with a pair of briefs on over his firesuit.

Fourth edition of KIYG launched

Over 8,000 students will compete in 25 disciplines

GENERAL

ANI
PANCHKULA

The countdown for the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games began on a high note, with the unveiling of its logo, mascot, jersey and anthem at a spectacular launch ceremony here on Saturday.

Attended by a power-packed audience, led by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar and Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, the captivating show set the stage for the biggest and grandest Games ever.

"We are proud and honoured to host this edition of the Khelo Games. We can't wait to welcome the country's youngest sporting talent to our beloved state," the Haryana CM said.

Unveiled: The logo, mascot and anthem of KIYG were released in Panchkula on Saturday. • TWITTER@MEDIA_SAI

The KIYG, will begin on June 4. Over 8,000 students from across the country will compete in 25 disciplines, including five traditional games Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba and Yogasana which will feature as demonstration sports. Tau Devi Lal Stadium in picturesque Panchkula will be the hub of all action while Chandigarh, Ambala, Shahbad and Delhi will host some of the competitions.

Among the several dignitaries present at the Launch Ceremony were Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker Gianchand Gupta, Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala and Minister of State for Sports and Youth Affairs Sandeep Singh.